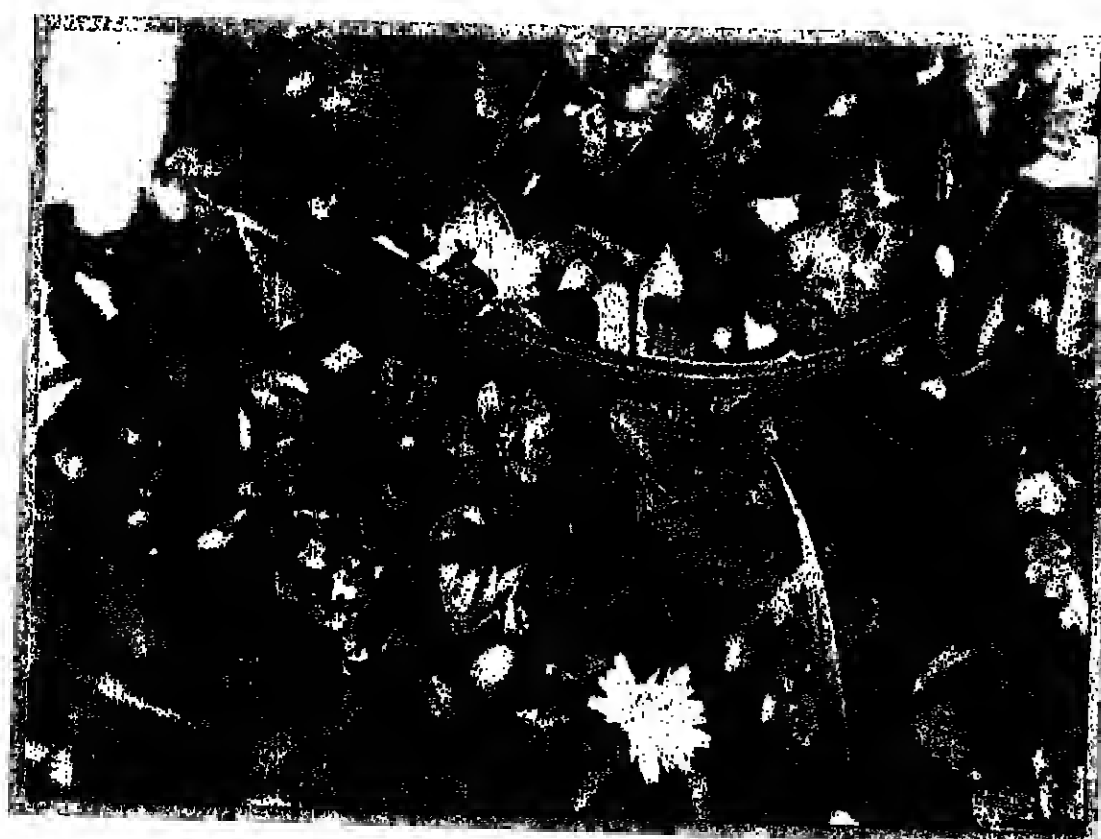
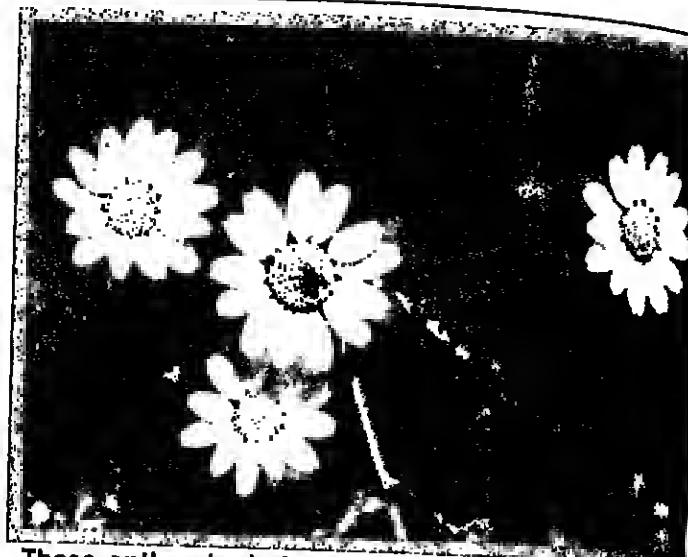


Spring flowers in the ruins

Text & Photos by Suchinta Wijesooriya



The anemone has a concentration of brilliant colour, but can easily go unnoticed because of its size.



These anemones, belonging to the deley family were found lining the roadway



Photo by Pam Douglas

Cover photo:

Anemones set the countryside ablaze in the spring, and are seen in abundance in Wadi Jal'd. They are also found in wadis all over Jordan at this time of year.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NO. TCC 1/88 SUPPLY OF HEAVY MATERIALS FOR LOCAL LINE PLANT PROJECTS

SECOND NOTICE

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC), Pursuant to Notice of Feb. 11, 1988 for postponement of the tender invitation, now hereby announces Tender No. TCC 1/88 for the supply of Heavy Materials for Local Line Plant Projects such as cables, wooden poles, P.V.C. pipes, manhole covers and dropwires, as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five Year Development Plan" for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for a loan from the World Bank and intends to use the proceeds of this loan to finance part of the cost of the Projects for which this invitation to bid is issued. As the available World Bank financing is insufficient to cover all the cost of this procurement, bidders are invited to submit in addition to the bid price a Financing Offer, at their option, to finance the contract cost or part of it.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers from the World Bank member countries, Switzerland, and Taiwan-China are invited to participate in this Tender in accordance with the terms, stipulations and technical specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, P.O. Box 1689, Telecommunications Corporation, Amman - Jordan, as of Saturday, April 2, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred Jordanian Dinars (J.D. 100).

Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Tuesday, June 7, 1988.

Director General
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NO. TCC 2/88 SUPPLY OF LOCAL LINE PLANT SERVICES AND ACCESSORIES SECOND NOTICE

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC), Pursuant to Notice of Feb. 11, 1988 for postponement of the tender invitation, now hereby announces Tender No. TCC 2/88 for the Supply of Local Line Plant Services and Accessories as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five Year Development Plan" for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the terms, stipulations and technical specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit in addition to bid price a financing proposal to finance the foreign exchange component of the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman - Jordan, as of Saturday, April 2, 1988, against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred Jordanian Dinars (J.D. 500).

Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Monday, July 11, 1988.

Director General
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

Participants on the FOM trip saw an ancient water cistern that is still in use, aided by a modern pump. A woman sits on the rim of the well surrounded by flowers.

Participants on the Friends of Archaeology trip on Friday 25 March found antiquities hidden among the blossoms and green grass that covers Wadi Jal'ad in the spring.

Wadi Jal'ad is located north of Amman, between Zai National Park and Rumamh. Ghazi Saudi, member of the Friends of Archaeology executive committee, led the trip to an area owned by his family which contained the antiquities. Participants visited a Roman mausoleum, a Byzantine tomb, a Roman camp, a water system and a wine press, while enjoying the warmth and beauty of spring.

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Weekly

Political, economic and social review

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Amman 7 - 13 April 1988



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Towards unified action against smoking

By Diane C. Chlangwa
Star Staff Writer

IN OBSERVANCE of the first ever no-tobacco day set by the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society will conduct a no-smoking campaign throughout Jordan beginning 7 April.

According to Primary Health Care Director, Dr S. Qubain, the campaign will be an educational one where the society will try to reach the general public through the use of pamphlets, brochures and the media.

"On this day, we will ask people to abstain from smoking," stated Qubain. "Through the campaign, we hope that some people stop smoking on a permanent basis. As part of the no-tobacco campaign, a seminar entitled 'Towards a United Arab Action Against Smoking' will be conducted in Amman from 11-13 April 1988.

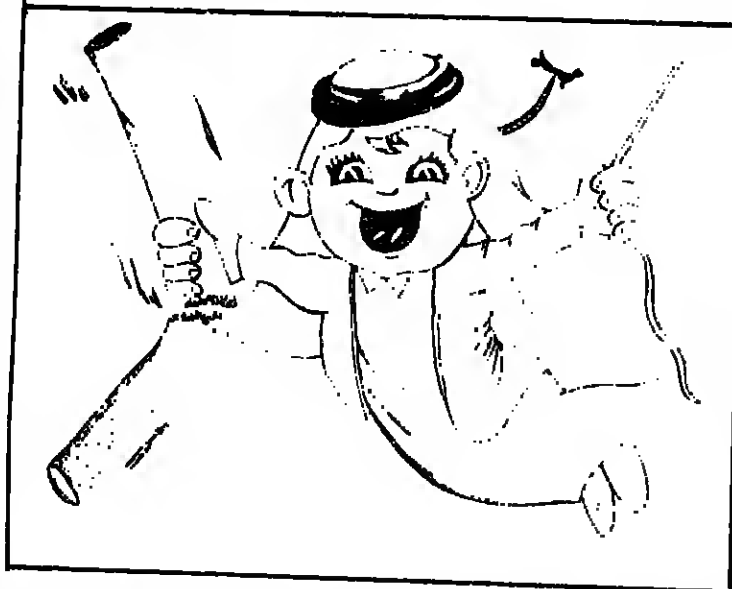
The seminar will include participants from different Arab countries who will present a

number of field studies and work papers on the hazardous effects of smoking. However, as the majority of educational material to be used for the campaign against tobacco use is printed, Qubain fears that a large number of people whom they are aiming to reach will not read the material.

"I think one of our major problems in Jordan is that people do not read much," said Qubain. "People should find time for this, otherwise it will not be easy for us to reach them with our educational materials."

Among other campaigns made in Jordan to curb smoking over the years, the Ministry of Health issued an order banning the use of tobacco in all places considered to be of public use. These places include cinema-houses, theatres, public libraries, public transport and other places considered public. Tobacco advertising and cigarette candy was also banned.

"Although a number of these



bans are still not observed by some people in Jordan today," Qubain concluded, "our aim is to achieve health for all by the year 2000 through primary health

care." Qubain added, "This is important as health is not only the absence of disease, but also to be able to live a socially and economically productive life."

First animal clinic in Jordan opens in Petra

AMMAN (Star) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia has recently inaugurated an animal clinic in Petra that would provide veterinary services to some 287 horses used by the tourists who visit the Ancient Nabatean city.

Only initiated a few years ago upon a suggestion by Princess Alia, the clinic has developed and grown faster than anybody expected. The establishment of the clinic was a joint venture by the Department of Antiquities, the Ministry of Agriculture which provided the land and the building, and Brook Hospital.

Brook Hospital for Animals — Princess Alia's clinic — is part of the London-based Brook Hospital chain which was first initiated in Egypt by Dorothy Brook about 1930. Brook started the clinic to provide medical care for the horses which were sold by the British government to buyers in the Middle East.

To ensure that the Brook Hospital standards are maintained, the clinic is equipped with qualified vets who will provide their services to the horses at no charge to their owners. According to Richard Searight, grandson of Dorothy Brook and present secretary of Brook Hospital, "the clinic here in Jordan is as well-equipped as the ones serving rich people's horses." He added, "Since we started in 1930, we've provided services of this standard to people who cannot afford the proper maintenance. This helps the owners financially as well as helps the animals to last much longer."

To protect the horses from the summer heat and winter rains, shelters have been built next to the clinic. In an effort to ensure that they are used by all horse-owners, all horses will be hired from this location.

"By siting the shelters next to the clinic, all horses will be examined by the vet on a daily basis," said Searight.

As part of Brook Hospital's tradition designed to encourage horse-owners to take care of their animals, a horse show was held during the Petra opening ceremonies and 30 selected horses were judged on how well kept they were.

The horse shows, according to Searight, are a Brook Hospital technique which will remain an annual feature of the Petra clinic. He added that "the competition is very important because it encourages the owners to be proud of their animals."

Minister of tourism Mr Zuhair al-Ajlouni, who visited the clinic recently, said that his ministry would continue working to improve facilities in Aqaba. He said that a medical clinic for tourists would be established in Petra as soon as consultations with the ministry of health are now underway.

7 APRIL 1988

British MPs shocked by brutality of Israelies, impressed by courage of Palestinians

By Lella Deeb
Special to The Star

THREE BRITISH members of Parliament intend to tell their compatriots how brutal and harsh is the "reign of terror" imposed by the Israelis on Palestinians under occupation. The three, Maria Fyle from Glasgow, Clare Short representing Birmingham Ladywood, and Marjorie Molem for Redcar, all Labour MPs, returned from occupied Palestine last Monday and spoke to The Star of their five days of visiting Jerusalem, Nabulus, Hebron, Gaza, several small villages and some camps, as well as hospitals, where they spoke to people from all walks of life, and heard first-hand descriptions of Israeli brutality from the people of Qabatiyah on the day after the 40-day siege of their town ended. The women also took photographs of women who had lost sons, youths paralyzed from the neck down, and others shot in the back, or with gangrenous limbs.

The three women seemed very shocked by what they saw. "The behaviour of the soldiers is an outrage," Clare Short said. "It is a war of people with stones against a fully-equipped army."

Her two companions agreed, adding that the soldiers beat men, women and children of all ages to death. "We do not think

people in Britain, America, or the Arab world, or even Jewish Communities anywhere, know what is happening. If they saw the systematic brutality, they would not let Israel do this," added Marjorie Molem. What shocked me most was how the Israeli army was behaving. They are undisciplined and totally lacking in self-respect."

The three will tell a press conference of what they saw when they return to England and they will speak to other parliamenta-

lie, thousands in detention, and saw for themselves the results of the atrocities committed against unarmed people. They also saw the degree of poverty, particularly in the Gaza camps, and said if Israel continued barring entry of food and medicines, the situation would get even worse. "They've even closed down pharmacies!" they said. "I have never seen so much poverty in any developing country, and it will get worse," Molem said.

"The behaviour of the soldiers (Israeli soldiers) isn't incidental or occasional. It is systematic and done under orders. They use brutality to break down Palestinians... what happens is that people are more united than ever before. Their spirit is strong and brutality only makes them more defiant. The whole world must come to their aid."

rains, and to as many of the news media as they can.

"The behaviour of the soldiers isn't incidental or occasional when a soldier gets out of control. It is systematic and done under orders. There is extensive use of gas, bombs thrown into people's homes, old people and babies dying, and pregnant women having miscarriage... They use pure brutality to break down Palestinians... What happens is that people are more united than ever before, old, young, women and children. Their spirit is so strong, and brutality makes them only more defiant... The whole world must come to their aid," Short said.

Molem said they had visited in Qabatiyah homes lit by kerosene lamps because the town still had no electricity or water, and the people told them that the Israelis had told the town elders to make the youths stop throwing stones at them, and in return, they would lift the siege. But the answer was that they wouldn't, that they could last for a hundred years.

The three met with UNRWA officials, heard that more than 130 people had already been killed, more than 400 maimed for

Fyle said Glasgow will commemorate the battle of Deir Yassin next week, an occasion that indicates the awareness of people in Britain of the real situation in the occupied territories. She said she would tell them how the Israelis would go into a town the day after a demonstration, not to quell it, because it was over, but to punish, shoot, and beat up the people.

"We heard a lot in England about the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) not being representative of the people, and we talked with a whole range of people, who told us, unasked, that the PLO was their only legitimate representative and that the only acceptable solution to their problem was an independent Palestinian state," Molem said.

"But you wouldn't believe the spirit and the courage... they won't back off, stopping (the uprising) would be suicide, they told us," Short said.

The three have come away with two main impressions, they said, horror at the brutality they saw, and sorrow for the events. But they said they were mostly impressed by the courage of the people and their determination to keep up the struggle.



A picture taken by the British MPs shows a 12-year-old Palestinian child who was shot by Israeli troops



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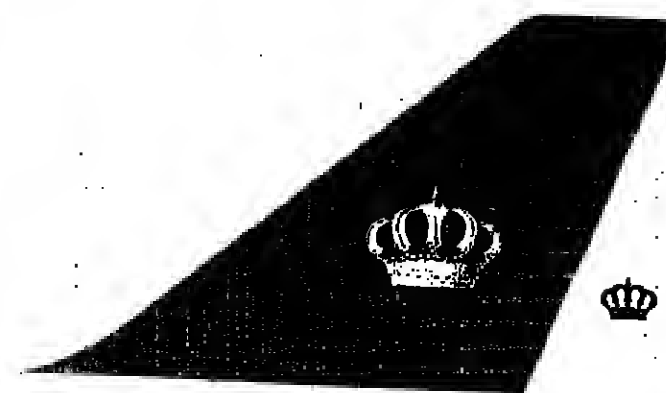
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Health for all-All for health

World Health Day

Emphasis on health for masses, not only for elite

By Diane C. Chilangwa
Star Staff Writer

THE LIGHTENING speed of modern technology, and the economic and scientific advancement in the 20th century has brought in its wake an overall improvement in health in the industrialized countries.

In developing countries however, which still represent the vast majority of humanity, organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) together with the local governments have over the century worked closely in their effort to try and improve the quality of people's lives by controlling the spread of diseases and ailments that stem from poverty.

However, there are still millions of people who die each year of diseases and other so-called diseases of affluence such as cancer, alcoholism and drug abuse, — found mainly in the developed countries. And as long as there are people dying, global efforts to prevent and control health problem have to be undertaken.

Recognizing this issue, WHO has set aside 7 April of each year to be celebrated as World Health Day. Commemorating this year's health day with the slogan "Health for All — All for health," emphasis has been placed on developing better health systems and self-sufficiency in health.

According to Director-General of WHO Dr. Halfdan Mahler, emphasis will be more and more on disease prevention. Health, for the masses, not only for the elite in the developing countries... As part of WHO's efforts to reach people of all walks of life and promote its definition for health, which states that health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, efforts are being made to make the public aware of the fact that although medical care can be useful in controlling or diminishing some diseases, it unfortunately cannot produce cures for many of today's killer diseases. Therefore, "individual actions for health will do more to keep you healthy than all the medical care in the world."

According to WHO, individual lifestyle decisions, which include tobacco, alcohol and drug consumption and exercise, are now being recognized as critical to a person's health. Among the most striking trends, the Geneva-based organization says, is the rising incidence of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer throughout the world.

After the first five years of life, whether in industrialized or developing countries, the most common causes of mortality are cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and accidents. WHO experts say, These are all causes of illness and death which the individual has great responsibility to prevent — and control. The organization estimates that in most developed countries, the majority of cardiovascular diseases and one third of all cancers are related to individual behavior.

"Don't die of Ignorance. Love carefully." AIDS: If



to be a desirable habit has also been a contributing factor in attracting the youth who are too young to realize the implications smoking might have for their health and well-being.

Recognizing the negative effects of tobacco on health, WHO has also marked Thursday 7 April 1988 as the world's first Tobacco Day. This follows a resolution adopted in May 1987 by the 40th World Health Assembly aimed at curbing tobacco-related diseases, the most preventable cause of death and suffering world-wide. To mark both WHO's anniversary and No-Tobacco Day, manufacturers of tobacco, and advertisers are asked to "retain voluntarily from all publicity in all countries especially in developing countries." Vendors are asked to "train voluntarily from selling tobacco that day," and governments are asked to "encourage the population, by all appropriate means, to desist from smoking and using tobacco in all other forms" — a reference to the growing addiction to smokeless tobacco.

Countries who have sponsored this resolution include Jordan, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Sweden, and the United States of America. Although WHO is doing a great deal in its effort to promote healthy living and the prevention of disease, the responsibility for prevention, particularly in the developing countries, rests finally on governments and health services states WHO expert, Peter Ozner. However, whether it be a developed or developing country, this process begins with the individual, he adds.

"While governments organize immunization campaigns or decree policies on drug purchasing, it is the mother who is chasing, it is the mother who is ensuring her child a place in the health centre."

Deaths in the developing countries resulting from smoking have already overtaken deaths from this cause in industrialized countries, according to WHO surveys. Faced with increasing public opposition and decreasing numbers of male smokers, the tobacco industry is selling more tobacco to youth, women and especially, to the developing countries. Skillful advertising and marketing making it appear

Smoking

The price paid for a soothing

smoking puff of a cigarette is equally high. The use of tobacco whether smoked, chewed or snuffed, is a major cause of premature death from cancer, heart disease and chronic bronchitis, according to WHO experts. It is the single most preventable cause of ill-health.

"Ninety per cent of lung cancer is due to tobacco," states Dr. Jan Slenski, chair of WHO's cancer programme. "It's the perfect example of a disease that is unnecessary, avoidable, self-induced — in other words, preventable."

Deaths in the developing countries resulting from smoking have already overtaken deaths from this cause in industrialized countries, according to WHO surveys. Faced with increasing public opposition and decreasing numbers of male smokers, the tobacco industry is selling more tobacco to youth, women and especially, to the developing countries. Skillful advertising and marketing making it appear

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What is World Health Day?

THE SEVENTH of April each year is celebrated as World Health Day, because it marks the date in 1948 when sufficient countries had ratified their signatures to bring the Constitution of the World Health Organization into force.

Ever since 1950, a theme related to international public health has been chosen for the World Health Day, with an appropriate slogan. Thus in 1954 the slogan was "The nurse — pioneer of health," in 1972 "Your heart is your health" and in 1982 "Add life to years."

All over the world, WHO's

national committees, United Nations associations and non-governmental organizations help to arrange events related to the theme. Over the years, the World Health Day events have attracted more and more coverage by the media — whether newspapers or radio or television. And the impact does not cease when the Day is over: the theme is regarded as valid for the rest of the year.

This year's World Health Day, 7 April, is also WHO's 40th birthday. The Organization is in a mood to derive

lessons for the future from the achievements — and setbacks — of the past. A year that will also mark the 10th anniversary of the historic Declaration of Alma-Ata offers a golden opportunity to highlight the need for equity and justice in health, to restate the aims embodied in the goal of Health for all by the year 2000 agreed by all WHO's member countries, and to emphasize once more that Health for all will be attained not by high-tech hospitals but by primary health care and the community's involvement in its own health.

AHMC concludes its 13th session in Amman

Council extends support to occupied territories

By a Star Staff Writer

DURING ITS 13th annual session, the Arab Health Ministers Council (AHMC) condemned the violent Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which violates all international charters, and praised the current uprising of the Palestinian people in defence of their land. It called on international organizations to take serious steps to end the spilling of blood in the occupied Arab territories and support the steadfastness of the people there.

In a press conference held at Plaza Hotel on Tuesday at the conclusion of the Council's three-day meetings, Minister of Health Dr. Zaid Hamzah said that the Council adopted a number of resolutions, most important of which was the support to the health situation in the West Bank. One hundred thousand dollars were allocated from the Arab Fund for Health Development to finance the purchase of the ambulances to be sent to the West Bank.

Furthermore another 100 thousand dollars were allocated to the Jordanian Ministry of Health for the treatment of the victims of the uprising in Israeli hospitals. A decision was also made to deliver 200 first-aid kits to the people there through the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

Another decision concerning the West Bank, Dr. Hamzah noted, was to support the construction of the Arab Hospital of Jerusalem. For this purpose, he said, a committee will go to Kuwait next week, where it will follow up the Islamic Conference Resolution concerning the construction of the hospital, which is expected to begin soon under the supervision of the Arab Health Society in Jerusalem.

The minister stated that the Council also discussed the support of Arab countries at war and asserted that the Council's executive office is ready for any assistance, they might need.

The conference agenda included several health-related topics, some of which were technical, said the Minister. However, major topics which were discussed in detail by the participants were the Arabization of medical education, Arab Medicine, AIDS, co-operation with international organizations and infant mortality rate.

He said that following a detailed study it has been decided by World Health Organization (WHO) the medicine should be taught in the national language of each Arab state. Such a decision "is not aimed at alienating our students from foreign languages." Therefore, he explained, English will be taught as a side language and students will be expected to read and follow up with international medical publications and foreign medical literature.

"We are all aware of the difficulties related to Arabization," he admitted, but said that Arab universities have been given ample time to gradually adjust their curricula so that, by the year 1997, Arabic will be the language of scientific instruction in all Arab universities.

The production of Arab medicine, said the Minister, was one of the Council's primary concerns during its meetings. He said that it has been decided to give Arab medicine priority of registration, circulation and purchase at all health ministries. "It is our duty to support this industry so that all countries alike can benefit from its returns."

On the AIDS epidemic, the Council revealed that until today, there has not been any discovery of an AIDS case that has



A side view of the meetings

originated from the Arab world, and that discovered cases were of foreign origin. "But this does not mean that we are unlikely to have cases in the future if we do not take the necessary preventive measures," commented Dr. Hamzah.

He said that since curing the disease is so far impossible, our only weapon is public awareness and knowledge, adding that national committees are being formed around the world, as stipulated by the "World AIDS Declaration" in London, to spread awareness among the public and prevent the spread of the deadly disease. However, he went on, "Spreading awareness is not the responsibility of only such committees, rather, it is that of whole society."

Infant mortality rate, an indicator of a nation's health development, according to Hamzah, has gone down considerably in Arab states since 1980. The Council, he said, has urged Arab countries to exert efforts with the collaboration of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to further reduce its infant mortality rates by fifty per cent by the year 1990.

Our Arab nation still suffers from high mortality rates," he said. Therefore the council has

called on Arab countries to improve their health situations regarding preventive and primary health care, respiratory diseases, nutrition and family planning in order for them to achieve their goal.

Dr. Hamzah said that members of the AHMC, will hold their next extraordinary meeting at WHO 41st conference to be held in Geneva later this year. The Council, he said, seizes any opportunity to meet and discuss their respective countries' health situations.

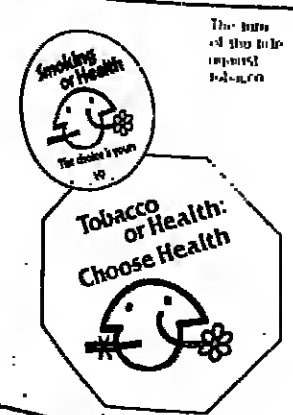
The Council's Information Officer Mr. Bilal Samra, told The Star that the Council will present a report prepared by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and other Arab countries on the situation in the occupied territories. The Council, he added, will

declare its condemnation of the Israeli practices and call on WHO to stop the physical and mental suffering of the Palestinian people.

The AHMC session, an annual event since the Council's establishment in 1975, was opened earlier in Amman on Sunday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dhoghan Al-Hindawi deputized for the King at the opening session.

Participants from 20 Arab countries as well as representatives of international and Arab organizations attended the three-day meetings. At the outset of the session the Council's executive office was elected and it now includes in its membership Jordan, Tunisia, Kuwait, Iraq, Morocco and Syria.

Stop smoking and feel great



By Heidi Taylor
Star Staff Writer

SAMEER SILAWA has stopped smoking, and he feels great. The Amman businessman told us this week about his very positive experience.

About two months ago Silawa, a smoker for 16 years, realized that his cigarette consumption was gradually increasing to a daily habit. He felt winded after climbing a few flights of stairs and had a persistent cough, especially at night. All this in spite of an active life that included regular sports activities.

Two other reasons for quitting, Silawa said, were the danger for his children of so much

smoke in the house, and the costs.

So, rather than "cut down," or "stop next week," Silawa quit smoking in one day. The first two or three days, he says, were tough. He felt sleepy and irritable, and didn't like to see other people smoking around him. During this time the support of family and friends was a big help.

"We are four friends, you see, and we all stopped smoking on the same day. We've always spent a lot of time together, playing cards or backgammon, or watching television — and smoking together. So it was good to stop together. We encouraged each other."

Silawa's wife Sana says that the results were noticeable right away. He stopped coughing at night almost immediately. As well, he began to eat more slowly, savouring the tastes that smoking had blunted. Sana was also glad to find that the house was cleaner and smelled fresher without the evening "cloud" of smoke.

Now, after two smoke-free months Silawa feels better all over. He has so much more energy "that sometimes I feel I want to fly!"

Yes, it's true, there is a tendency to nibble, especially on nuts, but he says he hasn't gained weight because his patterns of eating have changed as well. For example, before, he

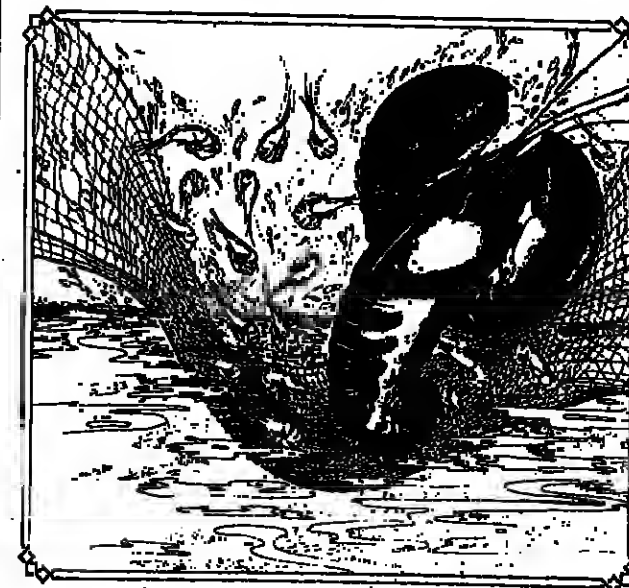


Sameer Silawa

used to have just coffee and cigarettes for breakfast and then by lunch time was ready to "eat for three people." Now, with his new-improved taste buds, he enjoys some food in the morning and isn't so ravenous at lunch. Also, because he feels more energetic he is doing more — like walking to work — to burn up the calories.

"Many people are afraid to stop smoking because they think they will get fat," he says. "But I haven't found that to be a problem."

Are you thinking about quitting? Silawa is encouraging. "Anyone can stop. You can do it."



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2 M	8 13/16 3 1/4	11 6 1/8	4	1 7/8	3 13/16 2 M	8 5/8		
3 M	8 16/16 3 1/4	11 6 3/8	4	2	3 16/16 3 M	8 5/8		
8 M	7 1/16 3 3/8	11 1/88 7/18	4 1/8	2 5/16 4	4 M	8 11/16		
9 M	7 3/16 3 1/2	11 1/48 9/16	4 1/4	2 9/16 4 1/16 5 M	8 3/14			
1 Year	7 9/16 3 9/16	11 3/88 11/16	4 3/8	2 3/4 1/4 1/16 8 M	8 3/4			
2 Years	8 1/8 4				9 M	9		
3 Years	8 1/2 4 5/8				1 Year 9 1/8			
4 Years	8 3/4 5							
5 Years	9 5 1/4							

Arab Deposit Rates

	Saudi Riyal	Kuwaiti Dinar	Bahraini Dinar	U.A.E. Dirham
1 M	6 5/8-1/2	5 3/8-5 7/8	8 5/8-5 7/8	5 5/8-1/4
2 M	6 13/16-11/16 5 3/8-5 7/8	8 5/8-5 7/8	8 5/8-5 7/8	5 5/8-1/4
3 M	6 16/16-13/16 5 1/4-5 3/4	8 5/8-5 7/8	8 5/8-5 7/8	5 5/8-1/4
8 M	7 5/16-3/16 5 1/4-5 3/4	8 5/8-5 7/8	8 5/8-5 7/8	5 5/8-1/4
1 YR	7 5/8-1/2	5 1/4-5 3/4	7 1/4-5 1/2	7 1/4-5 3/4

Source: Arab Bank Ltd, O.B.U., Bahrain, Spot 44.88

Dollar - Gold

LONDON (AP) — Dollar rates in European trading:

	Friday	Thursday	Monday
	1.4.88	31.3.88	28.3.88
DEM	1.6565	1.6555	1.6605
SFR	1.3650	1.3635	1.3705
FRF	5.6270	5.6130	5.6275
DFL	1.8595	1.8575	1.8685
LIT	1,228.75	1,229.50	1,231.00
CAS	1.2335	1.2339	1.2377
YEN	123.65	124.10	124.4
£	1.8895	1.8878	1.8690
GOLD			454
SILVER			8.63

Exchange Rates

	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
S. Riyal	91.25	92.25	\$	333
L. Lira	0.94	0.97	£	829
S. Lira	6.5	6.7	DEM	201
I. Dinar	165	175	SFR	244.7
K. Dinar	1260	1260	FRF	80.3
E. Pound	145	150	Yen(100)	288.7
UAE Dir	93.25	94.25	DFL	179.2
O. Riyal	885	895	SKR	57.9
O. Riyal	93.5	94.5	Li(100)	27.1
B. Dinar	902	912	BFC(10)	98.1

Corporate Scene

Oil prices on upward trend

NEW YORK, (OPECNA) — US oil analysts said at the weekend that the price of oil appeared to be on an upward trend with West Texas Intermediate projected to move this week as high as \$17.50 a barrel, according to a Reuters news agency report.

"Prices ended firmer last week at \$17.03 in anticipation of the meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee on price scheduled for the first week of April," the report added.

Crude oil futures on the New York mercantile exchange for May delivery rose seven cents a barrel, closing above \$17 for the first time since 11 February.

It said that prices had jumped nearly 40 cents a barrel last Wednesday when OPEC conference president Ali Hajj Aliwan Lukman announced in Lagos that the price committee would meet in April.

Among other factors listed as having contributed to price improvement were the possibility of a voluntary cut in non-OPEC producers' production and the reaffirmation by the Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Hasham M. Nazer, that the Kingdom was adhering to the OPEC accord.

Amman Financial Market

THE FOLLOWING is a list of 67 trading companies at the Amman Financial Market, listed in the following order: 1-19 companies which gained, 20-49 companies which lost, and 48-67 companies which had no change in the prices of their shares.

	Opening	Closing	Change
1. Jo.Gulf Bank	1.160	1.190	+0.030
2. Housing Bank	1.900	1.670	+0.070
3. Jo.Nat.Bank	2.450	2.470	+0.020
4. Jo.Inv.& Fin	1.970	1.990	+0.020
5. Arab Bank Ltd	113.750	114	+0.250
6. Ind.Dev.Bank	1.340	1.390	+0.050
7. Jo.Kwt.Bank	1.550	1.580	+0.030
8. Jo.French Ins.	5.150	5.300	+0.150
9. Universal Ins.	1.100	1.230	+0.130
10. Philadelphia Ins.	0.880	0.880	+0.180
11. Ahlie Nat. Ins.	1.270	1.280	+0.010
12. Livestock & Poultry	0.750	0.780	+0.030
13. Jo.Press/Rat	3.200	3.500	+0.300
14. General Inv.	1.320	1.330	+0.010
15. Jo.Eg.Hire	0.760	0.800	+0.040
16. Jo.Paper & Cardboard	1.000	1.010	+0.010
17. Jo.Print & Packag	3.000	3.070	+0.070
18. Yarmouk Ins.&Re Ins	3.650	4.000	+0.350
19. Jo.Jalamic Bank	1.090	1.100	+0.010
20. Jo.Credit	1.700	1.670	-0.030
21. Fin & Credit	0.570	0.590	+0.020
22. Darco	0.450	0.430	-0.020
23. R.Es.Inv.	0.420	0.390	-0.030
24. Nat.Portfolio	0.910	0.760	-0.150
25. Bank of Jo.	15.450	15.150	-0.300
26. Jo.Fin.House	1.180	1.100	-0.080
27. Arab Fin./Jo.	1.460	1.360	-0.100
28. Jo.Securities	0.810	0.870	+0.060
29. Innes Fin.&Inv.	0.580	0.540	-0.040
30. Al-Quds Ins.	1.300	1.280	-0.020
31. Arab Union Int. Ins.	0.970	0.920	-0.050
32. Jo. Electricity	1.480	1.440	-0.040
33. Petra Enl.Eg.Hire	0.980	0.960	-0.020
34. Eg.Hire/Tellico	0.810	0.790	-0.020
35. Garage Owner Fed.	4.050	3.850	-0.200
36. Public Mining	1.450	1.400	-0.050
37. Arab Aluminium Ind.	1.830	1.790	-0.040
38. Arab Pharm.Ind.	2.050	1.950	-0.100
39. Nat.Steel	2.830	2.750	-0.080
40. Dar Al-Dawa	1.480	1.450	-0.030
41. Intermed. Petro-Chem.	1.430	1.400	-0.030
42. Jo.Glass Ind.	1.910	1.890	-0.020
43. Jo. Tanning	1.950	1.930	-0.020
44. Jo.Lime & Silk Brick	0.250	0.210	-0.040
45. Chem.Ind	1.880	1.650	-0.230
46. Aladin	1.380	1.350	-0.030
47. Ind.&Metals/Jimco	0.700	0.680	-0.020
48. Spinning & Weaving	0.930	0.880	-0.050
49. Jo Sulpho-Chem.	2.940	2.740	-0.200
50. Jo Cement Fac.	1.060	1.050	-0.010
51. Jo.Pet. Ref.	7.060	7.000	-0.060
52. Ind. Tr. Agr./Prod.	1.400	1.300	-0.100
53. Jo. Worsted Mill	4.300	4.250	-0.050
54. Jo. Ceramic Ind.	1.050	1.030	-0.020
55. Jo. Phos. Mine	2.250	2.200	-0.050
56. Jo.Rock-wool Ind.	0.920	0.930	+0.010
57. Jo.Wood Ind./Jwico	1.280	1.270	-0.010
58. Arab Chem Detergent	4.250	4.100	-0.150
59. Ahlie Fin. Inv.	30.000	0	0
60. Cairo-Amman Bank	2.100	0	0
61. Arab Inv. Bank	2.000	0	0
62. Petra Bank	0.380	0	0
63. Der Al-She'b	0.320	0	0
64. Jo.Gulf R.Est.	0.320	0	0
65. Jo Pipes Ind.	1.150	0	0
66. Universal Chem.Ind	1.880	0	0
67. Net.Cable & Wire Mgt.	0.990	0	0

Money market

Gulf Currencies

S.Riyal	3.7490-10
K.Oman	0.27250-80
D.Dinar	0.37688-98
Q.Riyal	3.6390-20
O.Riyal	0.38490-10
L.Lira	363-364
U.A.E.Dh	3.6720-40

Source: A.S.L., O.B.U., Bahrain.

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Tuesday, 5 April 1988, were as follows:

18 ct... JO 3.750 per gramme
21 ct... JO 4.350 per gramme
24 ct... JO 5.500 per gramme

One Kilogramme (9999) JD 5,050.000

Ounce... JD 171.000
Sterling Pound... JD 36.000
(Eight Grammes)
Rashid Pound... JD 31.500
(Seven Grammes)

Source: Youelf Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

Stock market closes lower

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market lost ground Monday, faced with rising interest rates and renewed uncertainty about stronger-than-expected economic statistics.

A big chunk of the day's activity stemmed from trading strategies in a few high-yielding stocks based on their impending dividend payments.

Otherwise, analysts said, stocks and bonds were giving a cool response to the Labor Department's report that payroll employment continued to grow at an unexpectedly fast pace in March, expanding by 262,000.

The figures were issued on Friday, when the markets were closed for the Easter and Passover holidays.

New York Exchange

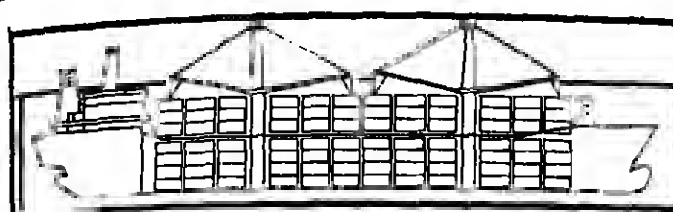
NEW YORK (AP) — New York closing prices as of 12:00 p.m. EST (1700 GMT) as gathered by First American Bank of New York on 1 April 1988 (prices are quoted in dollar terms and currencies by name of their countries): Jordan 3.003, Kuwait 3.6517, Lebanon 0.00274, Saudi Arabia 0.2998, U.A.E. 0.2722, Egypt 0.4425, Fargan, Austl. 0.1544, Australia 0.7420, Austria 0.085, Canada 0.8100, Chile 0.0040, Colombia 0.0036, Denmark 0.1570, Ecuador 0.002326, Finland 0.2504, France 0.1779, Greece 0.0075, Hong Kong 0.1282, India 0.0770, Indonesia 0.000801, Ireland 1.3140, Italy 0.000813, Japan 0.008085, Mexico 0.000436, Netherlands 0.8378, Peru 0.0303, Philippines 0.0478, Portugal 0.007363, Singapore 0.2500, S. Korea 0.001848, South Africa 0.4719, Spain 0.008033, Sweden 0.1701, Switzerland 0.7334, Taiwan 0.0349, Turkey 0.000819, Uruguay 0.0032, Venezuela 0.0339, West Germany 0.8037, Yugoslavia 0.000735

Non-Kuwait Companies

Kuwait Financial Market

THE FOLLOWING is a list of the stock closing prices at Kuwait Financial Market as quoted by Al-Anba' on 4 April 1988 compared with the previous closing:

Kwt.Nat.Bank	0.870	0
Ahli Kwt.Bank	0.280	-0.005
Kwt.House of Fin	0.475	0
Com.Facilities	0.365	+0.005
I.F.A	0.102	0
Inv.Pearl Kwt.	0.104	0
Worba Ins.	0.420	-0.005
Com.Mkt.CMPX.	0.019.5	-0.000.5
Mobile Tale	0.380	0
Bahrain Int.Bank	0.067	-0.001
Coast Inv.	0.067	-0.001



Vessels calling on Aqaba Port

Amin Kavar & Sons Co Red Sea Shipping Agency

SERVING AREA	NAME OF LINE	NAME OF VESSEL	ARRIVAL DATE
A-Romania (Conv.)	Navrom	Novaci	1-4-88
B-Black Sea (RO-RO)	SDP	Tanya Karinskaya	2-3-88
		Ruzheny	19-3-88
C-Australia (Cont. + RO-RO)	Baltic	Sk Zalk	27-3-88
		A. Goro	11-3-88
		Ikonsom	7-4-88
D-Yugoslavia + Med. (RO-RO + Conv.)	Jadranska	A. Trnder	27-4-88
		Notilio	15-3-88
		Pharos	7-4-88
E-Far East (Conv. + Cont.)	PIL	Kota Express	22-3-88
		Kota Mutlira	6-4-88
		Gongcheng	13-4-88
		Kota Benar	28-4-88
		Kota Jaya	29-4-88
F-GDR + North (Container)	D.S.R.	Kohn Rotu	4-5-88
		Rennburg	14-3-88
		Kontipisee	15-3-88
		S. Jazeta	9-4-88
		Pritzwik	29-4-88
G-Europe (RO-RO)	Hijal	Hual Tribune	13-3-88
		Hual Tripper	20-3-88
		Hual Margate	14-4-88
		Hual Traveller	9-5-88
H-Eastern Europe (Conv. + Cont.)	POL	Zygmunt Stary	20-3-88
		Zygmunt III Waza	29-3-88
I-Brazil (RO-RO + Conv.)	Konmar	Emden	6-3-88
J-North America (Conv. + Cont.)	Chrys	Liberly	T.S.
		Conlio	T.S.

Arab Containers Services Co.

— R.M.S. Stephan J. Voyage No. 43, departing Venice 21 March 1988, Ravenna 22 March 1988, arriving Aqaba 3 April 1988.

— R.M.S. Lequre, Voyages No. 44, departing Venice 28 March 1988, Ravenna 30 March 1988, arriving Aqaba 9 April 1988.

— R.M.S. Stephen J. Voyage No. 45, departing Italy 23 April 1988, arriving Aqaba 2 May 1988.

— R.M.S. Lequre, Voyage No. 46, departing Italy 3 May 1988, arriving Aqaba 13 May 1988.

— Thames, Captain See, Voyage No. 5, departing Brazilian Ports, arriving Aqaba 17 April 1988.

— Thames, Trident Duet, Voyage No. 4, departing Brazilian ports, arriving Aqaba 27 March 1988.

— Thames, Trident Eagle, Voyage No. 5, departing Brazilian ports, arriving Aqaba 16 May 1988.

— TBN, Voyage No. 7, arriving Aqaba June.

Jordan National Lines

— AL-KARAMEH III, VOY NO. 18019/0748, In Aqaba 21 March 1988, 31 March 1988. Dates: R/V 08.02-31.03; 38 22.02-31.03. Duration: R/V 55 days; 58 39 days.

— HITTEEN, In Aqaba 23 April, 3 May 1988. Dates: R/V 27.02 - 03.05; 58 28.03 - 03.05. Duration: R/V 55 days; 58 37 days.

— EFDM JUNIOR III, In Aqaba 13 May, 23 May 1988. Dates: R/V 04.04 - 23.05; 58 19.04 - 23.05. Duration: R/V 90 days; 58 36 days.

The above three vessels are enroute Suez Canal, (Al-Karamah III discharging in Bremen 21.02.88; Hitteen discharging Nordenham 23.03.88; 27.03.88; Eldim Junior III discharging Taragona 12.04.88, 13.04.88), Antwerp, Bremen, Sheerness, Suez Canal and finally Aqaba.

Arab shipping co.

AMMAN (Star) — The Arab Shipping Co. has announced in Ad-Dustour daily, on 5 April 1988, that the Scan Dutch vessel's schedule is as follows:

— Galia 134, arriving Aqaba 16 May 1988.

— Galia 174, arriving Aqaba 13 June 1988.

The above two vessels are enroute Japan ports, Hong Kong, South Korea, Bangkok, Singapore and finally Aqaba; Galia departing Japan 23 March, Italia departing Japan 19 May 1988.

Job Market-place

Required for possible work in Jordan and the Gulf, university graduates engineers: 1) Planner/Architect; 2) Structural engineer; 3) Electrical engineer; 4) Mechanical engineer, HVAC; 5) Trefle and Highway engineer; 6) Environmental engineer (sanitary/water/drainage). Applicants should have a minimum experience of five-seven years, three years of which is in design. Working knowledge of BS and US codes and standards is required together with mastery of in the English language. Interested applicants are to mail fully detailed CVs, copies of university degrees and address/telephone number to P.O. Box 7399 Amman.

valid driving licence and a good command of English. Interested applicants may submit documents and C.V. to: P.O. Box 9887, Amman, Jordan.

• NCR Corp. announced vacancies for accountants with an appropriate university degree or be professionally qualified; have at least three years' experience with a professional international firm; have knowledge of taxation and tax audit; be fluent in spoken and written Arabic and English. Documents and C.V. may be submitted to: The Finance and Administration Manager, NCR Corp. Luwibdeh, P.O. Box 9569, Amman, Jordan.

• A Saudi construction company requires the following personnel: (1) chief accountants with 5-8 years' experience in construction and contracting companies; (2) accountants with 3-5 years' experience in accounting.

three-four years experience in construction and contracting companies. Applications to be submitted to the Personnel Office — UNRWA Headquarters, Jait Building, Office 409, Abdali, Amman.

• A publicly-held company in Jordan requires a Commercial Manager with a university degree in commerce, fluent both spoken and written English, ten years' experience in local and international trade. Interested applicants should write to: P.O. Box 19197, Amman, Personnel Affairs.

• A consultant company in Jordan requires a Civil engineer with minimum seven years' experience in bridges and road-work. Interested applicants may submit documents, C.V., address and telephone number to P.O. Box 5279, Amman.

Foreign companies

AMMAN (Star) — The following is a list of international firms, with a multitude of specialities, wishing to establish export & import ties with Jordanian firms. Interested companies may initiate direct contacts of their addressees accordingly:

• Hydraulic Units Ltd. U.S. 3, Sen Gwam Industrial Estate, Birkville, India (Paints and Chemicals)

• M.N. Khan Exports, 178, C.B. Street, Mohammed Building, Bombay 400 300, India. (Fruits and Vegetables)

• Waedem Union Enterprises, G.P.O. Box 10999, Hong Kong (clothes)

• Perkene Limited, G.P.O. Box 4975, Kowloon, Hong Kong (Stationery and perfumes)

• Polytec Corporation, World Headquarters, 954 Marcon Boulevard, Allen Town, Pennsylvania 18103, U.S.A. (Chemicals and tools)

• Ikes Die Ticeret Ve Mamasilik A.E., Tahia Kala Caddesi Dekelo Han, No. 30, Eminonu - Istanbul, Turkey (Knitting needles)

• Stampes Enterprises, P.O. Box 7933, Chicago 90606, U.S.A. (Industrial tools, toys, house equipments and radio, T.V. sets)

• Ikes Die Ticeret Ve Mamasilik A.E., Tahia Kala Caddesi Dekelo Han, No. 30, Eminonu - Istanbul, Turkey (Knitting needles)

• Jinn Ron Marketing Pte Ltd, Bk 1014, Gay



Yves Saint Laurent Cubist fashion — A model presents a long leg-revealing Cubist evening gown in blue embroidered satin with Picasso's peace doves embroidered with white epingle designed by Yves Saint Laurent in Paris.



Show of force in Pensma — Armed with tear gas, automatic weapons, and rubber hoses, Pensma's elite anti-riot soldiers occupy the Herinas Pensma Mill in Pensma City. The government of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega ordered the army to seize the flour mills from striking owners to prevent them from donating their stock to a local Catholic welfare agency.



Thatcher helps cleanup — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher helps gardener Paul Haul, 35, as she picks up rubbish in St. James' Park, London, at the launch of a new anti-litter campaign.



Champion Autograph — Michael Dukakis signs a campaign poster for Rollie Bortelt during a district political convention in Milwaukee. Dukakis took an early lead over Jesse Jackson in the Michigan Democratic caucus.



Christian Lacroix summer line — A model presents a marine bolero embroidered with red cloth over a short red balloon skirt as a preview of the 1988 Haute Couture spring summer fashion collection of the French stylist Christian Lacroix.

News in pictures

AP/Wide World to the AP

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Tabbaa speaks in puns and paradoxes

By Margaratte Hall
Special to The Star

THE JORDAN National Gallery's second floor contributes a great deal to the atmosphere of the works on display. The spaciousness of the room, the stark white walls, the terrazzo floor tiles, all emphasize the impact of Samer Tabbaa's sculptures currently on display.

The idea behind most of the works deals with the interrelation of image and form. An image is basically what the mind registers and the eye sees. The eye may be satisfied with form, but the mind is only satisfied by both form and meaning. It can visualize the meaning subconsciously, after the eye is closed. Take the case of stone; it can be seen as being ambiguous with various shapes and dimensions. However, to see a stone thus is to lose the most significant part of the meaning — the thinking part which is in the idea being expressed.

The marriage of meaning and image creates a metaphor, an ambiguity, a contradiction. A lot of the displayed works deal with parallel lines, which are associated with meaning. The sculptor says that he observes certain characteristics such as the image of a plowed field or a railroad track, and digests it in his mind. The parallel lines are an image of the meaning interpreted by the artist.

Such pieces are "The Zebra Solution" done in painted wood. Yes, as the name implies, this piece has designs reminiscent of a zebra skin. The shape is of a triangle with two of the upright sides in black and white. Space is given more breathing room as it dominates the area between the two sides and the floor. At the same time, it adds to the balance of the composition by appearing to hold up the two sides.

As you undoubtedly know,

stone is hard, tough, and everlasting. Also, it is associated with eternity and Tabbaa has chosen it as one of his mediums. Local and imported stones are incorporated because of their qualities and associations. But this artist contradicts the idea of eternity by manipulating the stone's coarse texture.

He speaks in puns and paradoxes and juxtaposes two things that are opposite in meaning. One of his stone pieces is sandwiched between smooth slabs. This rectangular sculpture transmits a sense of compression, and claustrophobia perhaps due to the contrast of two extreme

self-expressive depressions are not specific symbols; rather they interact with the silvery doodles found on the same surface. They also add to the African air that is emitted from the shields.

The "watermelon" sculpture is a contrast to the other serious works. This charming piece is made out of vertical rectangular wood painted in hot pink. The depressions, made by "hand gauges" reappear here, this time painted in jet black with dots of white. This work truly resembles a watermelon with its black pits. The ragged edges at the top right look like someone could



Samer Tabbaa

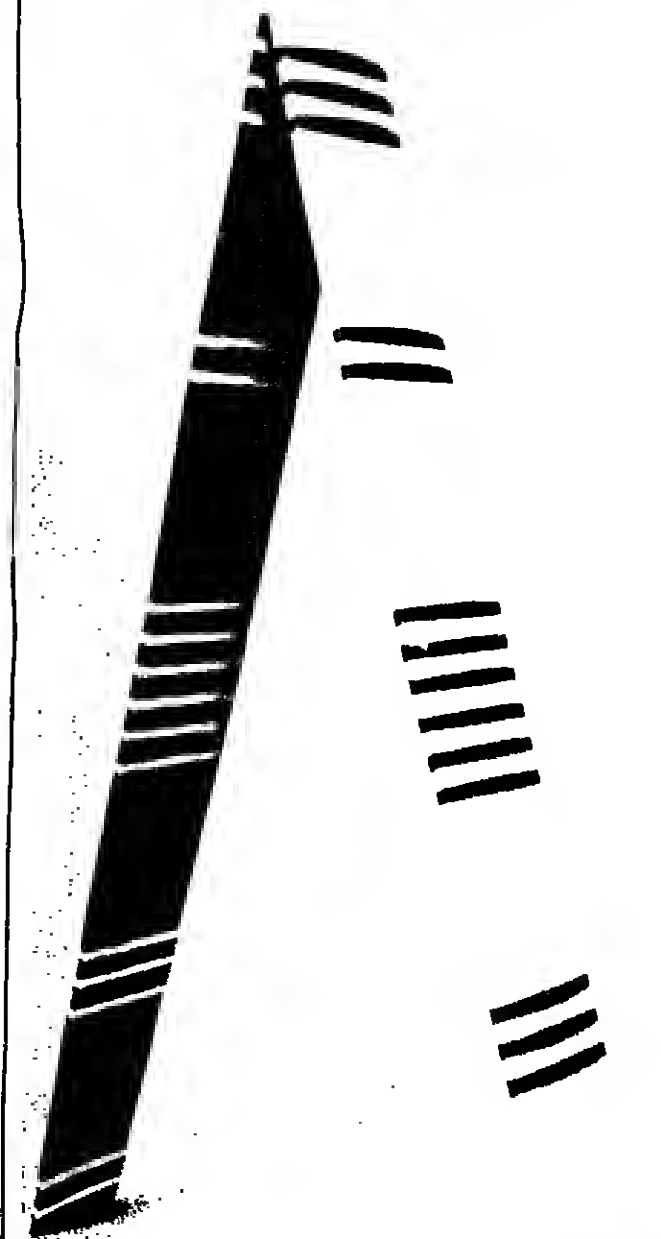
elements in one composition.

Tabbaa tells me that here he is drawing a discrepancy between two opposite moods. Anger is portrayed by the rough textures and peace by the smooth ones. Both want to dominate in the composition, but Tabbaa controls this conflict in balance. Save for one piece done in Jordanian basalt, the 23 sculptures express this contrast through rough and smooth textures.

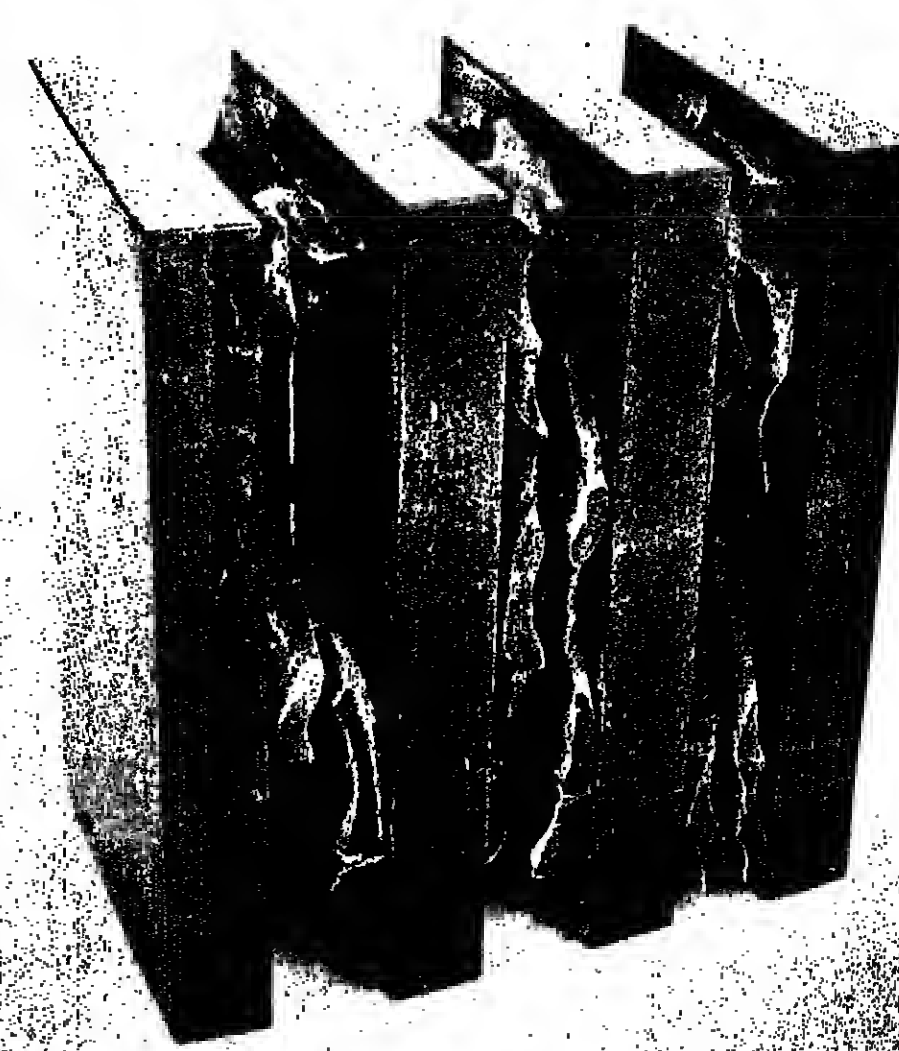
One art critic, Dr. Nenos Georgopoulos, comments: "All the pieces, despite their formal differences, seem to point not to what one can do with stone, not to the stone as a mere medium for plastic forms, but to the stoniness of the stone, to the material as a forceful contributor to the work of art that each piece develops."

Stone's toughness has allowed Tabbaa to make only simple and direct statements. You must not forget that great effort has gone into coaxing an image out of stubborn stone. Neither must you take for granted the simplicity of the work to which is dedicated six to seven hours daily. One piece is of basalt, and at first glance it looks like five slabs of stone stuck together in some manner. The sculpture, however, is of one mass made to look like many stones in one. The sculptor has made parallel incisions in the cubic rock which create this deceptive simplicity.

Another dimension in this exhibit is a sort of African impression which I got from the displays of shield-like structures. These black wooden surfaces are decorated with carved depressions which are coloured in shocking yellow or blue. Once again the artist tries to get away from the idea of eternity by showing imperfect boundaries. These imperfections represent erosion and simultaneously imply that nothing is finite. The



The Zebra Solution



Peace and anger merge in this untitled work

not resist the temptation and took a bite off.

Overall, the horizontal and vertical lines of repetitive sequence create an analogue of the sequential. The pieces formed by the piling up method, the rhythmic repetition of the stone units, and the regularized beat of visually similar components establish an intentional sense of monotony. The artist does this so as to create a meditative and peaceful atmosphere. This monotony is also seen in Samer Tabbaa's black and white drawings in which movement has been portrayed in dynamic lines.

I can go on and on about this exhibit, but at the risk of being monotonous I ask you to go to the National Gallery and judge this work for yourselves. You have until 16 April.

Inside star features



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Can Arabic be the language of science?

By Frida Mdanat
Star Staff Writer

WHETHER SPEAKERS of Arabic say "kilomitr" or "one thousand measure unit", "helli" or telephone, computer or "hasib" remains a matter of one's individual choice. If so, then what is the future of Arabization and standardization efforts taking place in conferences, seminars and lectures all over the Arab world?

Before the rise of colonialism, Arabic was the scientific language of the world, evidence of which can be seen in many scientific terms of Arabic origin, like algebra, logarithm, alkali, amalgam, zenith, nadir, azimuth, or the names of many stars and constellations.

During what was called Europe's "dark ages" from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Renaissance, the torch of scientific learning was borne by Islamic civilizations. In fact Europe's Renaissance itself was stimulated by its contacts with the Islamic civilization in Spain and the Eastern Mediterranean.

When the scientific progress of the industrial revolution reached its height, Britain and France were the two strongest European colonial empires that ruled most of the Arab world.

To ensure the supremacy of their languages colonial powers imposed their educational ideas and systems on the people they ruled. Consequently Arabic came to be considered English and French as the languages of scientific progress, forgetting the role their own language once played.

Since independence and with varying degrees of success, most Arab countries have made efforts to Arabize their educational systems in which English or French was the language of instruction. Arabization has been easier to apply in arts and humanities while transition to Arabic in scientific subjects has been regarded as a harder task which had to come later.

It was not until the end of the two world wars that Arabization began to take an organized and strong dimension when the Arab nation recognized the need to regain its national identity, a goal which it believed could only be realized by reviving its language.

Naturally the use of Arabic in all educational fields at all levels throughout the Arab world would facilitate national unity like economic integration and co-operation between the different states and also break the barriers left from the colonial era.

Efforts in this respect started to materialize in 1961 when the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science held its first conference on Arabization in Beirut, during which it issued a recommendation to form national committees for translation, Arabization and publication in all the Arab countries which did not yet have Arabic language academies. The only Arabic language academy then existed in Syria dating from 1919.

In response to the conference recommendation a national committee was formed in Jordan in the same year. It was affiliated with the Ministry of Education. With limited resources, the committee persevered in its efforts to make Arabic become the language of science, until in 1976 a law was issued to establish the Jordan Academy of Arabic.

A member in the Union of Arab Academies including those of Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad and Amman, the Academy embarked



His Majesty King Hussein with Dr. Khalifeh at the opening of the Jordan Academy of Arabic

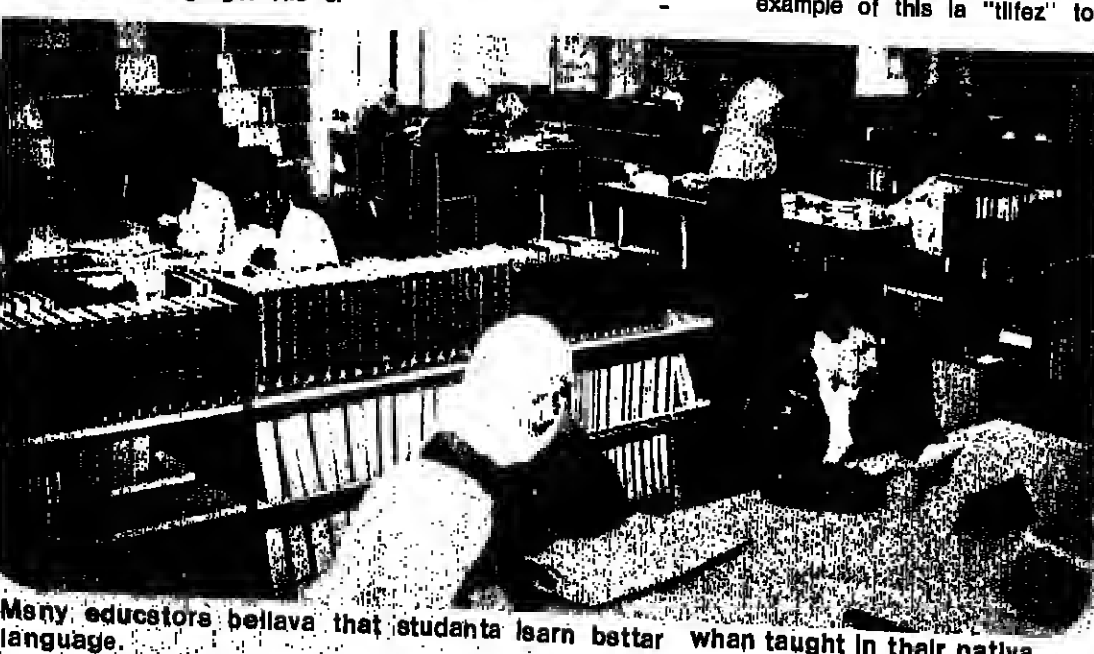
on answering the question "how can the Arabic language become the language of science?" and overcoming theoretical questions on the suitability or non-suitability of the language to serve this goal.

According to Dr. Abdul-Karim Khalifeh, President of the Academy, "It is impossible for a nation to be creative or genuinely take part in the scientific movement unless through its national language. Arabic, says Dr. Khalifeh, is a rich language with a long tradition capable of absorbing scientific progress. It is more capable than some of the modern languages through which science, in addition to many other subjects is being taught.

The suitability of a language for modern scientific subjects depends on its flexibility and capacity for development — how readily it can be expanded to accommodate new concepts, its vocabulary widened to include the terminology of new scientific inventions and discoveries. It is a fact that the grammatical structure of Arabic with the possibility of creating derived forms to provide for a variety of related meanings gives it good potential to be a language of modern science.

Linguists and proteases believe that there are very few, if any, inventions, discoveries or concepts in modern technology for which a word of pure Arabic root cannot be found or formed. Many of them stress that "our language is more living than others but we neglected it for a while," saying that "it is our deficiency, not the language."

Deterioration in the scientific standards of our countries, believes Dr. Khalifeh, is due to teaching university curricula in the English language. He ex-



Many educators believe that students learn better when taught in their native language

However, he says that "we need foreign languages as the bridge that connects us with science," adding that Arabization does not cancel the role of foreign sources which are necessary for researchers and scholars.

The academy pays full attention to the reproduction of the books, making them look identical to the original ones in colour, layout and print. Some of them, boasts Dr. Khalifeh, are even superior to the originals with the notations they include. Furthermore, books include glossaries containing all the Arabic terminology and their equivalents in the English language.

Dr. Khalifeh proudly notes that the Jordan Academy was the first to employ Arabic terminology "long neglected" in scientific books. "We have proved that it is a possible thing to do and have opened the way for others to follow suit."

Method of Arabization
The Academy Council, consisting of 15 permanent members and other supporters from Arab states, is the party which endorses the Arabic term after passing it through experts and terminology committees. Approved terminology is published and circulated in Jordan and all Arab countries.

During the Union of Arab Academies Conference held every three years terms are reviewed with the aim of standardizing them all over the Arab world.

The Jordan Academy, says Dr. Khalifeh, co-operates with educational and scientific institutions in Jordan, in addition to numerous government departments to Arabize and circulate terminology related to commerce, industry, agriculture, meteorology, metrology and other areas with the help and co-operation of experts and specialists.

In Arabizing the word the council takes into consideration factors such as how easy the word is on both the tongue and the ear, how common and circulated it is or could be, in addition to its ability to produce derived forms.

"We are not narrow minded," says Dr. Khalifeh. The council does not hesitate to use foreign words if they are more indicative and inspirational to the meaning involved. Also, he says, the Arabic language has a number of sources for expanding the vocabulary all of which are acceptable. One source, Arabization, traditionally meant the transfer of a foreign language into the Arabic form and including it in the Arabic vocabulary. A current example of this is "telfaz" for

television. Here an Arabic form indicative of the word "telfaz" is given. By using "telfaz" rather than keeping the foreign word, derivations such as "telfazeh," meaning television and "mutelfaz" meaning televises are possible.

Other sources of words include coining, etymology, substitution and transfer.

A computer is presently being referred to in many Arab countries as "hasib." It is easy to say "yahab" meaning to compute and "hasab" meaning computer; derivations that are unlike the foreign word remained says Dr. Khalifeh.

"Sayyara" (car) sounds nicer than "tremble" or "otomobile," which many people used to call it. "Sayyara" is transferred from the old concept of the caravan, our ancestors' means of transport, says Dr. Khalifeh. Also, it relates to the verb "sara" to walk.



Biology
Richard A. Goldsby
Harper & Row, Publishers
New York 1976

The Academy has published texts for science and the humanities.

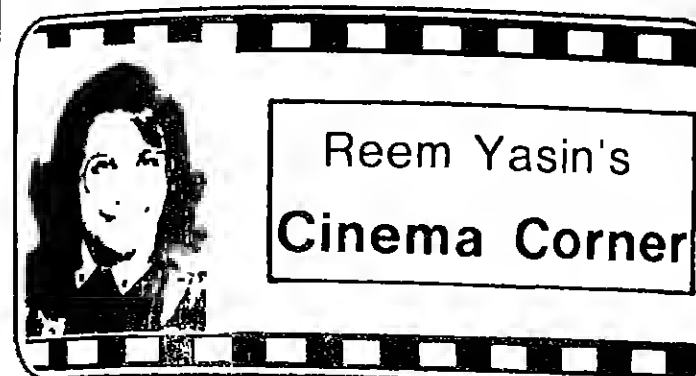
Naturally like any other controversial issue, the attitude towards Arabization differs and not all voices advocate such a move. Some arguments against Arabization claim that differences between dialects of, for example, Egypt, Morocco or Kuwait and the distance between each of these dialects and correct literary Arabic, make it hard for Arabs to understand each other.

Obstacles of this sort can be overcome through co-ordination between linguists from different parts of the Arab world for tasks like developing new technical terminologies for various branches of modern science.

Dr. Muhammad F. Mirdadi of Yarmouk University is one of many who stresses this point saying "It is essential to standardize terminology throughout the Arab world, rather than for each Arab country to adopt that of its former colonial rulers."

Dr. Khalifeh, Ph.D. Arabic Literature from Sorbonne University, France was President of Jordan University between 1968 and 1971, and is now professor of Arabic language. He says that Arabization has become a complex issue that it difficult to solve. He believes that, through his experience as professor and caeding 25 years, "Arabization is a political issue, not a problem involving the language itself."

"It is a political issue that should be dealt with and discussed at the Arab summit," he says, adding that "only if a political decision is made to make Arabic, the language of scientific research and university education, will such a step be possible."



Real life tragedy and the tears of Tinsel Town

OVER THE past few weeks, the Monday slot on JTV's Channel Two seemed to have been reserved for films conveying real-life tragedy and true heartache. The series started with the deeply moving film, "A Time to Live," in which Lisa Minelli brilliantly stars as the mother of a child with a progressive muscular weakness that aggravates every day, ending in total paralysis leading to a premature death.

Other films in the series (all based on real life stories) were "A Fight for Jenny" where a mother is denied custody of her seven-year-old daughter, and "Oeddy's Care" which tells the story of a nurse's painful descent into drug addiction as an outlet from the great pressures of her demanding job where death is a daily routine. Another hospital drama was "No Greater Gift" about two brave young boys fighting terminal disease, one a brain tumour, the other kidney failure.

But perhaps the most moving of the series was "Kids Like These," which portrays the agony, the heartache, the limitless love and the sheer guts required to release a mentally handicapped child, in varying degrees all these "disaster stories" show the harrowing starkness of real-life tragedy, leaving the viewers choked with pain, apprehension and heartfelt sympathy.

Quite in contrast came last Monday's classic "A Star is Born" a typical Hollywood melodrama about shooting stars and fallen idols, a theme that clearly draws the line between the "real" and the "fictitious", the latter being a tradition in which Tinsel town particularly excels. In the film itself Hollywood is referred to as the "Metropolis of Make-Believe." However, as rising young actress Esther Blodgett soon finds out, if one gets what one wants in Hollywood one has to sacrifice one's heart in exchange.

"A Star is Born" has been made and remade three times. The one presented on our small screen was the first version made in 1937 with Janet Gaynor and Fredrick March. The second and by far the best was the Judy Garland and James Mason film directed by Cukor in 1954 and the third and hopefully the last was made in 1976 with Barbra Streisand as the Star. If anything this only underlines Hollywood's preoccupation with itself and its obsessions with its own star system.

However, in all its three versions the basic theme of the film is to expose and to mock the cruelty and heartless glamour of tinsel town, a show business that wears its heart on its sleeve, discarding its idols most viciously when they stop fulfilling its short-lived needs.

But after the intensive dose of real-life tragedy we have been accustomed to on the small screen (let alone off it), the rise and fall of Hollywood stars no matter how artistically they are presented, seems to be of little if any importance and the melodramatic tears of Tinsel Town fade into insignificance.

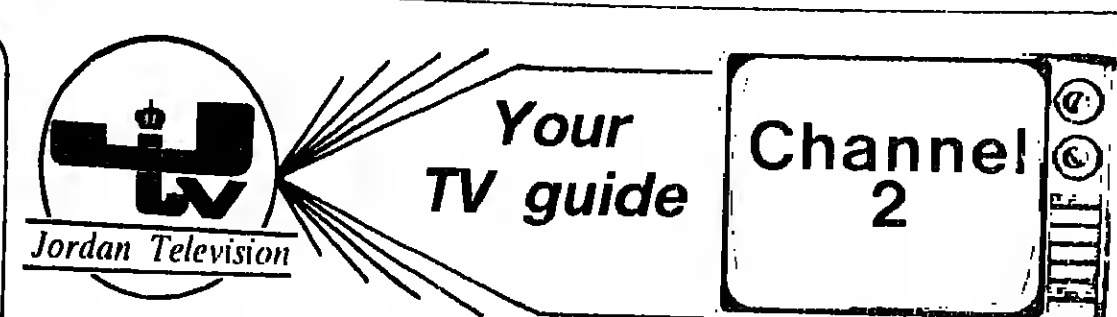
BBC World Service Highlights

Can Communism Cope?

A new series of half hour programmes begins, written and presented by Chris Covic, a Croat from Yugoslavia, who's lived in Britain for over 30 years. There's a growing conviction that communism, in its present form, does not work. Both Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union and Deng Xiaoping in China are now in the forefront of the reform movement of Communism. The big question is: can communism cope with reform? Chris Covic hopes to tackle this one and other issues. Sun 7:15, Mon 10:30, Wed 00:15, Thurs 6:30.

Six Cities: Cairo

Bob Jobbins looks at a city called by the inhabitants of Cairo "Om el Dunya" — "The Mother of the World." In the 14th century, foreign travellers were overwhelmed by the wealth and sophistication of the city. Cairo had street lights, sanitation and an efficient police force. Now, the people of Cairo have to do battle with the overreached resources of the largest city in Africa and in the Middle East. Mon 9:30, 13:01, and 18:15.



The Thursday movie this week is Causa Célèbre

French Programmes		English Programmes	
<p>Saturday</p> <p>5:45 Le Chevalier de Par-dillon: Jean finds out about a plot to assassinate Charles IX</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 Un OB de Plus: this week a guest: Osmis Roussos.</p>		<p>Saturday</p> <p>6:00 Rue Carnot, a drama series.</p> <p>6:30 The Magical World of Chantal Goya, a series for children.</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 Un DB de Plus, with Bernard Mabille</p>	
<p>Sunday</p> <p>6:00 Rue Carnot, a drama series.</p> <p>6:30 L'école des Fans: This week's guest: Yves Horner</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 The 10th International Circus Festival: featuring Cuba and the Peoples' Republic of China</p>		<p>Sunday</p> <p>5:30 French Feature Film: "Fantômes se déchaine" — a continuation of last week's efforts to catch the uncatchable Fantômes.</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 Le Magazine Sirocco: Maaks in traditional religions.</p>	
<p>Monday</p> <p>6:00 Louis XI: This king was a negotiator and the real founder of national unity in France.</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 The weekly sports magazine.</p>		<p>Monday</p> <p>6:30 Yea, Prime Minister.</p> <p>9:00 Saturday Variety Show.</p> <p>10:20 Feature Film: "Can You Feel Me Dancing" Juliette Bateman portrays a courageous blind girl who discovers independence by learning to dance.</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>6:00 Des Chittras et Oes Letres, a quiz show</p> <p>6:30 Lucky Luke.</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 Un OB de Plus: with Mireille Methieu</p>		<p>Tuesday</p> <p>8:30 Kete and Allie</p> <p>9:10 Wish me luck</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p> <p>5:30 Champs Elysees: Variety show featuring Pierre Bachelet and the group Kasear.</p> <p>7:00 The News in French.</p> <p>7:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie, a local magazine produced and</p>		<p>Wednesday</p> <p>8:30 Sweat Surrender.</p> <p>9:00 Hooperman</p>	
<p>Thursday</p> <p>10:20 New mini-series Napoleon and Josephine, a passionate true love story.</p>		<p>Thursday</p> <p>8:30 Kete and Allie</p> <p>9:10 Wish me luck</p>	
<p>Friday</p> <p>8:30 Growing Pains: Jason and Meggie's concerns about their marriage become irrelevant when they find out Meggie is pregnant.</p>		<p>Friday</p> <p>8:30 Growing Pains: Jason and Meggie's concerns about their marriage become irrelevant when they find out Meggie is pregnant.</p>	
<p>Saturday</p> <p>9:10 Megnum</p> <p>10:20 Felton Crest.</p> <p>11:10 Rich Man, Poor Man</p>		<p>Saturday</p> <p>9:10 Megnum</p> <p>10:20 Felton Crest.</p> <p>11:10 Rich Man, Poor Man</p>	

• The Relief Services Department at UNRWA Headquarters is bidding farewell to two dedicated senior staff members: Bernard Moesess, who has been assigned as Assistant Project Co-ordinator and Endre Hebaash, Relief Operations Officer who is retiring after 38 years with the agency. The staff had a party to say goodbye and to welcome Mr Hebaash's replacement Yousef Qinnawi, another long-serving UNRWA man. The junior staff at the Relief Services Department only hope the changes will end there!

• The Arabic Service of the BBC is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a range of special programmes, including a concert featuring a specially written signature tune and a number of musicians from around the Arab world. Also included are a history of the Arabic Service, programmes drawing on the service's rich archives of music and poetry and a poetry competition.

The Arabic Service's own monthly magazine Huna London, which in January published a special anniversary supplement, carries the programme details as well as a wide range of features.

The target audience totals at least 170 million people — from the Atlantic to the Gulf — who can hear a comprehensive service of news and current affairs supported by a full schedule of music, cultural and scientific programmes, broadcast 83 hours a week.

The oldest surviving feature programme is "Political Question and Answer," in which experts answer listeners' questions not only on the main issues of the day but also on recent history.

New head of the service Bob Jobbins joined the BBC in 1972 in the External Services newroom, later spending eight years in Cairo as the BBC correspondent in the Middle East. He says the Arabic Service is unique: "It is like a self-contained radio station, with a dedicated audience, which makes it very exciting."

As to the future, he hopes to continue the tradition of hard-news reporting while giving some of the non-news a "sharper edge," and will shortly be launching a new magazine-type programme, similar to the World Service's "Outlook."

To welcome her sister-in-law Nicole, and niece Valerie Armstrong, Rozto Armstrong wife of the Spanish Ambassador to Jordan, gave a delightful luncheon, starting in the pretty garden of the residence. It was fortunately a lovely day, so all the ladies had the chance not only to be outdoors, but also to wear light clothes and get rid of the

winter feeling at long last. Present were Princess Wijdan Ali, Giovanna Amaduzzi and daughter Carlotta, Echa Beien, Leila Deeb, Lisa Bak and Wadad Bek, Linda Bell, Randa Habib, Michelle Sudarhi, Conchita Halasa and other friends who were served with a delicious paella, the Spanish national dish of Arab origin.

wife Michella and many members of the Jordanian educational community.

• More requests for pen pals, this time from Ghana. Write to Francis Boansi, 18, who likes sports, Janet Boansi, 20, who likes to collect postcards, Theodor Konedu, 19, who likes writing letters, or George Tony

836 147 (P.O. Box 834, Amman).

• Leaving Jordan can be a tiring business as Michael and Monika Warich have been discovering this week. The Warichs have been here for five years, Michael working with the Zarqa River Basin Project and Monika scribbling successfully for a number of publications, and they

Australia for ever.

• Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Teghreed, the Arab Model Schools held their second annual sports festival at the school grounds last Friday. Participating in the festival were other schools, Arabian School, Alnahrat School, Beisan School, Amman National School and Manarat Al-Bam School. The festival was attended by a great number of parents, children and their friends who all enjoyed the sunshine, the activities, the games and the music.

• The Jordan-British Society gave a reception on Monday 25 March, at the Amman Plaza Hotel, to honour the visit to Jordan by the participants of the "Countertrade Seminar" headed by Lord Seltsdon, and chaired by Hamdi Taba' Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply. Attending the reception were British Ambassador Tony Reeve, Hanna Odeh the Minister of Finance, Hashem Sabbagh, Hussein Al-Gasem, Sami Sunna, Senator Amer Khammash and many more of the society's members.

• Ahmad Al-Issa and Fou'ad Adawieh gave a luncheon party last Thursday at the Hussein Sports City, celebrating the wedding of their children Mouhammad and Rula. The luncheon was attended by more than 500 friends and relatives. Among those present were Dr Anwar Bulbul general secretary of the Ministry of Health, Awni Saket, Ghazi Rifa'i, Abdel-Qader Arablyet, or Jawad Anani and many more.

• Semer Tabbe's exhibit of sculpture and drawings was opened last week by Princess Alia. The guests included Princess Wijdan Ali, President of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Prince Faisal and his wife Princess Alia, Prince Asim and wife Sana.

• Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, the Haya Art Centre will present "Mirage — A Cry for Justice" as concert at the Palace of Culture on 7 and 8 April at 5.00 p.m. Tickets are JD 4,000, JD 3,000 and JD 2,000 and can be obtained at various localities in Amman, at the Palace of Culture and at the Haya Art Centre.

• The Sydney University team digging at Pella in the Jordan Valley showed their customary forbearance when a large Friends of Archaeology group descended upon them last Friday. Team members Pam Watson, Tim Potts and John Tildesley gave a fascinating and thorough account of their work during the 1988 season before the Friends scattered to enjoy a picnic lunch on the green hills. Those enjoying the day included: Michael and Linda Bell, Kate Craig, David, Linda, and Chrisha McCreery, Mervyn Simpson, Peter Hazou, Phil Deeb, Laelle Savage, Phil Ernesta, Mark, and Andrew Kreczkiewicz, Jeannine Lindl, Ghazi and Maria Saadi, Pateh and Fatté Londrén, Billem Dababnah, Amel Qussa, Othman Boahme, Chris, Sami and Tihani Barakat, Catherine Desseau, and Joan Baron. On a perfect spring day it can be hard to judge which is the real attraction, the archaeology or the countryside but that, in the end, probably depends on one's relativistic place in the universe. And don't forget, on Friday 8 April the Friends have a trip to Jerash. See Calendar p. 29 for details.

• Margaret Tow has arrived back beaming from yet another trip to Adelaide. This time the smiles are due to the healthy arrival of grandson number three, Timothy Robert Lynas. Her previous trip was to welcome Mathew Steven Whybrow who joined three year old James Robert. With no more grandchildren in prospect Margaret is set to enjoy her last four months in Amman and then she and husband Phil will be off home to

Birds of Jordan

By Diana C. Chilangwa
Star Staff Reporter

"LOOK at birds and I see their endless beauty," states Arslan Ramadan, author of the book titled "Birds of Jordan" due to be published later this year. "There is a kind of wisdom attached to birds that should not be overlooked."

Ramadan's interest in all feathered creatures that navigate the camera of the world can clearly be seen in his personal collection of photographs of the many birds found in Jordan. When asked if he has always been a birdwatcher, Ramadan is quick to admit that he, like many others in Jordan, was a bird hunter until some three years ago.

"I held a photo exhibition on Jordan at the University of Jordan and among the many shots I exhibited were about 20 photographs of birds," Ramadan says. "The Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended this exhibition and when he saw these photographs of birds, he asked me to think about photographing more birds."

It was after this encounter that Ramadan began to seriously photograph birds. During the past three years he has identified over 300 species. Keeping in mind the small number of serious birdwatchers in Jordan, Ramadan has concentrated on the birdlife found in this country.

By following the immigration patterns of birds, Ramadan has

managed to identify, classify and categorize an additional six more birds not previously recorded as part of Jordan's birdlife. Among those identified are the "Ring-necked parakeet" and "Great-Tit" found in the northern part of Jordan.

With the help of University of Jordan researcher, Hala Horani, he has prepared his future publication in such a way that it serves as a reference for all interested readers.

"I want to help the people of my country to know more about the birds we have here," he says. "Jordan has many beautiful things but unfortunately a lot of people don't think about them," he adds.

Following the publication of

"Birds of Jordan" by the Private Enterprise Technical Resource of London (who have also offered to pay for the publication) — Ramadan hopes to publish other booklets on birds of Jordan to be used by children in elementary schools.

"Birds of Jordan" will be Ramadan's third book publication. In 1981, he published his first

book titled "Photographs of Jordanian and Palestinian Heritage," and in 1985 he published "Amman Yesterday and Today," another pictorial history book.

In 1975, Ramadan retired from the Jordanian Armed Forces which he had joined in 1948 and later served as Captain and member of the Royal Escort of the Royal Palace for 18 years.



Gold Finch (*Carduelis carduelis*) — a resident of Jordan and found throughout the Kingdom



Jordanian Ambassador in London Dr Butros prasanta the scholarship certificate to Nadine Khamis.

We wish all the Armengods a happy stay in Jordan.

• Director of Amideast Jenine El-Tal gave a reception at the InterContinental Hotel to say farewell to Amideast President Orin Parker, who is retiring soon. His wife Rita was also present, and so were the many friends he made during his long service in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Lebanon. Among the guests were Prince Raa'd Ibn Zaid, American Ambassador Rocky Sudderth and

Lee, who likes football. All are at the same address: P.O. BOX M 981, Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana.

Or for letters from another direction, why not write to Mrek Myloga, a 28-year old Polish man interested in theatre travel, and music. His address is Skrytka Poczta 142, DO-953 Warszawa 3D, Poland.

• The King Hussein of Jordan Scholarship is once again being offered this year by Devle's College in England.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a Jordanian citizen for outstanding academic and personal promise and achievement. In recognition of the excellent relationship which has developed over many years between the Jordan and Davies' College. The recipient of the scholarship will have all tuition, books and examination entries provided free of charge, for a minimum of one academic year.

This year's holder's Nadine Khamis, the National Orthodox School. Nadine is following a one-year advanced level course in politics, economics and law, and hopes to read Law in British University.

The minimum academic requirement for the scholarship is a 93% Application forms and prospectuses are available from the offices of the British Council, Rainbow Street, off First Circle Jebel, Amman, telephone

were surprised at just how many friends they had made and had to say good-bye to.

The Warichs are easing the pain of leaving by treating themselves and children Julia and Stefan to a trip to America before they settle back into German life for a while.

• Faris Gemmoh celebrated his arrival at double figures this week with a small but lively birthday party at his Sixth Circle home. Faris and friends managed to fit in a couple of energetic football games along with the party feast, while his young sister Muna was well into the party spirit as well remembering her own 8th birthday party on 28 March. After the excitement of the birthdays Muna, Faris and baby sister Hanna will just have time to catch their breath before the even greater thrill of a trip to Australia to visit their much missed grandmother Anne Khaasho.

• Margaret Tow has arrived back beaming from yet another trip to Adelaide. This time the smiles are due to the healthy arrival of grandson number three, Timothy Robert Lynas. Her previous trip was to welcome Mathew Steven Whybrow who joined three year old James Robert. With no more grandchildren in prospect Margaret is set to enjoy her last four months in Amman and then she and husband Phil will be off home to



Nojoud Al-Safadi celebrates a birthday full speed ahead.

An Arab looks at Lawrence of Arabia

Al-Ghuelin.

Musa discusses the legend, and refutes claims that Lawrence single-handedly commanded the famous battles from which he emerged such a unique and famous character. He stresses that it was the Arabs themselves who started the revolt and who fought and sacrificed their blood in its battles.

After the book was first published, historian Akram Zuaiter, the then Jordanian ambassador to Damascus, sent a letter to Musa saying, "I admit that with your book you have managed to change my opinion about Lawrence and have taught me things I didn't know. Your book is the history of the renaissance of nationalism in our modern history."

French Orientalist Marcel Matte, an officer in the French military mission during the revolt, also wrote to praise Musa's work.

"I have read your book from cover to cover with great admiration, since what it includes on the deeds of Lawrence in the revolt is more credible than everything else written by Westerners. I can say that your book is the only one which has presented authenticated records of events and has obtained the historical truth of Lawrence's role."

"I congratulate you on this achievement in my capacity as a person who participated in the

military actions alongside the Arab regulars and the bedouins. You have clarified the discrepancies written in other books and have purified history, doing what others were unable to do."

The Japanese publishing company Libro Port has chosen as its title for the new translation

"An Arab Looks at Lawrence of Arabia." The book was translated by Professor Yushiro Matagagi from Siki University, Tokyo, and journalist Daiji Sadamori an editor of Asehi Shemyon newspaper. The translation comes in 57D pages and is enhanced by maps, diagrams and pictures.



著者:スレイマン・ムサ
Sulaiman Musa

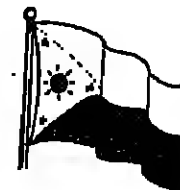
AMMAN (Star) — Sulaiman Musa's "Lawrence of Arabia: An Arab Viewpoint", considered by many to be the definitive work on Lawrence, has been translated into yet another foreign language. The book is now one of the very few Arabic books to have been translated and published in Japanese.

Musa's book, originally published in 1982, derives its importance from being a sincere attempt to present an Arab point of view of the legend of Lawrence and his role in the Great Arab Revolt. This is a story which has captured the imagination of readers and movie-goers all over the world. However, it is also a legend which has been spread by books written by foreign writers and based on foreign sources. One of the greatest "culperts," of course, was Lawrence himself.

Musa, on the other hand, did intensive research using Arab sources. He met and interviewed a number of the people intimately involved in the revolt, including Prince Zaid bin Al-Husein, Neel Al Bakri, Awnt Abdel-Hadi, Mohammed Ali Al-Jouni, Adoub Al-Zeben, Turqi Al-Mufleh Al-Ziben, Prince Said Al-Jazairi and Fatz



Lawrence



Window On the Philippines

President Aquino confident she will complete term

President Aquino has expressed confidence that she would be able to finish her term which expires in 1992, despite persistent threats of her major political enemies, the extremist elements, to topple her government.

She made a statement to this effect before some 400 students and faculty members of the SS University, a floating university managed by the University of Pittsburgh. The President said that some people would consider her as an inactive President because of the many attempts to topple her government. But she hastened to add: "I challenge everybody to survive five coups."

However, President Aquino admitted that there are problems that beset her administration, the latest of which was the escape of Col. "Gringo" Honsaan.

Delegations to MPA declare a considerable ground for agreement

The Philippine and American delegations to the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement review started their official several-day talks in Manila Tuesday.

At the conclusion of the opening session, the two parties issued a joint statement in which they said the labour issue was the first subject to be addressed by the meeting because both sides "recognized its major importance."

They said that they discussed to need for a separate review of the Bases Labour Agreement and found a considerable ground for consensus, "although a final agreement has not yet been reached."

Both the American and Philippine aides expressed their desire for a successful review, and pledged to work towards this end in a harmonious manner.

Filipina domestic helper files complaint against employer

Mrs. Erlinda D. Dulay, a Filipino domestic helper in Amman, filed a complaint before the police authorities at Zahran Station on 4 April against her employer who refused to give her her new Philippine passport.

It appears that Mrs. Dulay has received a long-distance call from relatives in the Philippines who informed her that her husband had died in an accident. Mrs. Dulay then asked for her passport from her employer so she could go to the Philippines to attend her husband's funeral. The employer refused to give her her passport.

Accompanied by a staff from the Philippine Embassy, she went to the Zahran Police Station and filed a complaint against her employer. Accordingly, the Chief of Police at the Zahran Station took immediate action on the complaint. He went to the residence of Mrs. Dulay's employer and retrieved the passport. The Chief of Police later referred the case to the Public Prosecutor.

After hearing the case on 5 April, the Court of First Instance of Amman ordered the employer to return the passport, including the release paper and the residence and working permits.

Easter 'triduum' in English

The religious celebration of the Easter "triduum," which means the observance of



Maundy Thursday (Holy Mass), Good Friday (The Lord's Passion) and Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) will be done for the first time in English at the St. John the Baptist (La Salle) Church at Jabal Af-Husseini from 7 to 9 April.

"Make way, please" Ninoy Aquino's larger-than-life likeness in bronze seems to be telling maintenance men who were sprucing up the other day the slain senator's statue at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Royas street in Makati.

In the past, the yearly celebration of the Easter "triduum" in Jordan had been done in Arabic. At the St. John the Baptist Church, the schedule of activities during the three-day celebration is as follows: Maundy Thursday, English Mass, 5 p.m.; eight Good Friday, celebration of Lord's Passion, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, 10 p.m.

Also on Thursday, there will be a "washing of the feet" and a simple procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church. The faithful who wish to keep vigil over the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday evening can go to the church after 7 p.m. Arabic Mass.

Philippine delegation attends ILO conference in Amman

A three-man Philippine delegation led by Mr. Tomas Achacoso, Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), arrived in Amman on 3 April to attend the International Labour Organization's 2nd Tripartite Inter-Regional Round Table on International Migration, which opened on 4 April at Amra Hotel. Represented in the meeting were Arab and Asian countries.

The conference, which ended on 6 April, discussed the problems confronted both by the labour-sending countries and the labour-receiving countries. The problems included illegal recruitment, contract substitutions, long-working hours of contract-workers, and non-payment of salaries and wages. The Tripartite Conferences are held every four years. The 1st Tripartite Inter-Regional Round Table on International Migration was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1984.

Other members of the Philippine delegation were Mr. Tomas Meronille, deputy administrator of the Philippine Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and Atty. Rene V. Soriano who represented the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP).

Philippines to get \$400 million from AJDF

Undersecretary of Trade and Industry Tomas L. Alcantara has said that Philippine industries will have access to about US\$400 million in the form of soft loans, as part of the Philippine share in the US\$2 billion Asean-Japan Development Fund (AJDF) within the next two years.

Mr. Alcantara pointed out that the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand would get \$400 million each from Category B of the Fund, which carries an interest rate of only 2.5 per cent. Asean member countries can also avail themselves of the AJDF under category A for projects conducive to the promotion of regional economic cooperation.

7 APRIL 1988

Ross benefits from Chang's stubbornness

CHICAGO (AP) — John Ross, rated 94th in the world, defeated 16-year-old Michael Chang 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 in the first round of the \$15,000-dollar Volvo-Chicago Tennis Championships Tuesday night. Ross took Advantage of Chang's inability to come to the net in the final two sets and refused to change his game plan, allowing Ross to rack up numerous points on unforced errors.

The second set when he became upset over a referee's ruling.

But in the third and final set, Ross broke Chang in each of the third and fifth games, taking advantage of Chang's inability to rush the net and keep the ball in play.

In the fifth game, Cheng committed his only double fault during the two-hour, two-minute marathon.

In the final evening contest, Scott Davis outlasted Tim Wilkison, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Earlier, Jim Garab, Lawton Duncan and Sammy Glemmerville all advanced to second-round action at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion. Garab defeated Netti Anger, 7-6(7-3), 6-3. Duncan ousted Todd Witsken, 7-6(7-5), 6-3, and Glemmerville beat Marty Davis, 7-6(7-4), 6-4.

Chang lost eight of the first nine points in the opening set, but fought back to score a 7-5 first-set win, breaking Ross in the 12th game when Ross hit three straight returns out of bounds. Both Chang and Ross failed to serve in the first two

games of the middle set, but Chang fell behind, 4-3, failing to hold serve in the seventh game, as Ross scored on a placed spinning drop shot to win the game.

Ross, who closed out the second set 6-4 with a hard overhead smash, regained the concentration he said he lost early in

In the second set, Wilkison used his booming serve to greet advantage, getting two aces and 11 winners to square the match at one set each, but in the final set, Davis took complete charge, felling only to hold serve in the sixth game and closing out the match with a winner.

sports

British champ goes to America for big money

PSWICH, England (AP) — Big money is luring another champion British athlete to the United States. It's not golf, tennis, soccer, track and field or even football this time. It's croquet.

Mark Avery, the British open croquet champion at the relatively tender age of 22, said Tuesday he was taking a \$15,000-dollar offer to coach the sport for six months at Blantyre Club near Boston.

As such, he will among the first to make a living from the game of mallets and hoops, known to most Americans as a backyard affair played while waiting for the barbecue.

"I am still bowled over by the offer and I am extremely excited at the prospect," Avery said. "There is a lot of money to be made in the US, which is something you just can't do here."

Avery works as a building inspector for the Ipswich government. Croquet in Britain is a fiercely competitive, important matches draw fans both in per-

son and on television, and the sport recently has attracted commercial sponsors.

While a few American tournaments offer prize money, none of the British events have gone that route. Avery said that may be one reason US croquet players are narrowing the gap. "The sport is taking off in America because they like the English tradition, but they are starting to put us to shame," he said.

Stephen Mulliner, runner-up to Avery in last year's British open, praised the Blantyre Club for being willing to pay for proper coaching and offered his younger colleague good luck.

"I have no doubt that Mark will be extremely successful and has as good a chance as anybody of making a full-time living from the game if he wishes to," Mulliner said.

Avery is not the first British player to coach croquet in the United States. Nigel Aspinall, a leader player several years ago, coached in America briefly.

West German rider wins 2nd leg of Spanish race

DURANGO, Spain (AP) — West German rider Rolf Golz took overall leadership in the 28th tour of the Basque Country Cycling Race after he won the second leg Tuesday.

Golz won the leg, a 184-kilometre stretch from Berriz to Durango, by outpacing 18 other riders on a final sprint. He was clocked in five hours, two minutes and 13 seconds.

All the 118 riders in the five-day, 852-kilometre race encountered heavy rain and five mountain passes on their way to Durango. Other top placings in the leg, all with the same time as the winner: Sean Kelly, Ireland; Julian Gorospe, Spain; Luis Laguna, Spain; Gert-Jan Theunisse, the Netherlands; Marino Lejarreta, Spain; Alvaro Pino, Spain; Anselmo Fuente, Spain; Luc Suijkerbuijk, Belgium; Jean Claude Bagot, France.

Golz was leading the general standings with 9:39:13 followed with his same time by Kelly, Laguna, Theunisse, Pino, Gorospe, Lejarreta, Acacio da Silva, Portugal; Suijkerbuijk, Pedro Delgado, Spain.

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Basics of peacemaking

US Secretary of State George Shultz began his second tour in the Middle East amidst mounting tension and increased pains caused by Israel's unprecedented brutality in dealing with the ongoing revolt of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The number of Palestinians killed each day by Israeli troops gunfire is increasing alarmingly and in most cases as Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted, Israeli soldiers initiate the shooting without provocation, as if killing Palestinian civilians has become a ritual and a way of life for the trigger-happy forces of occupation.

The tragic situation underlines, more than ever before, the need for quick moves to end the Israeli occupation and the unbearable agony of Palestinians who are determined, despite all the atrocities, to maintain and escalate their resistance until they attain their legitimate national rights.

There is no doubt that the United States shares responsibility in what is happening in the occupied areas because it is the power that provides Israel with all means of survival, including the instruments of destruction which enable Israel to maintain its occupation without fear of effective retaliation. The United States is thus the sole power that can exercise real pressure on Israel to force it to concede to peace requirements.

The US Secretary of State is well aware of these requirements which, after all, are based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy as well as respect of human rights which his administration staunchly supports and tries to defend in various parts of the world. Military occupation and excessive oppression contradict sharply with human rights principles and constitute flagrant contravention of the UN Charter and international law. The United States would be in direct conflict with its repeatedly professed declarations on human rights and the illegitimacy of military occupation if it continues to allow Israel to hold on to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

The United States cannot escape its responsibility in the search of a just and balanced settlement in the Middle East which above all, meets the national aspirations of the Palestinian people. The way to such a settlement can never deviate from the international peace conference which should have full powers over the process of negotiations. The Arab demand for a full-fledged conference with full powers is reasonable in light of Israel's history of evasion, procrastination and unwillingness to give up what it seized by force. Furthermore, Middle East peace is an international responsibility involving all major world powers, especially the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. No one can argue otherwise unless the recent peace efforts lack seriousness and genuine interest. Mr Shultz, we believe, or wish to believe, is this time serious in his endeavour to accomplish the long-charished settlement.

A healthy society

The World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates its 40th anniversary this week under the slogan "Health for all - for health." Jordan celebrates with other WHO member countries this occasion as it strides with confidence to meet the goals outlined in the above-mentioned slogan.

A healthy society has always been a main objective of all Jordanian governments. With increasing literacy, a higher standard of living and the development of urban centres both in cities and in the country-side, Jordan has managed to rid itself of major endemic and epidemic diseases, while providing health services to all of its citizens.

One of the important achievements of the Health Ministry was the creation of public awareness of health - related issues by starting at the grassroots. Supported by highly specialized physicians, modern hospital facilities, and a national health strategy, Jordan can proudly sort itself with the developed countries in terms of the quality of its public health services.

The challenges remain, though, as the need for establishing clinics and health centres in cities and villages increases. With industrialization and development, providing such services to all citizens becomes a task that requires money, expertise and a well-thought out strategy.

We are sure that meeting these challenges continues to occupy the top priorities of all concerned. Creating a healthy society is the foundation upon which a country can plan its hopes for a prosperous future.

New thinking and journalists

Following is a reprint of an interview which The Democratic Journalist's Rudolf Prevratil and Valdislav Irapeznikar conducted with Genady Gerasimov, Information Department chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry and well-known Soviet journalist.

THE DEMOCRATIC JOURNALIST: Now that the issue of new thinking can be described as dominating politics, it would be interesting to trace its origins. Whom do you credit with advancing the idea of new thinking? Specifically, do you agree with the view that it was politicians who raised the issue?

GENADY GERASIMOV: It was reality, not politicians, that raised the issue of new thinking. If we were to trace the origins, we should begin by mentioning the famous manifesto of Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell in which they called for a new way of thinking, telling mankind that nuclear weapons had changed everything in our lives except our mode of thinking. The beginning, the germs of new thinking appeared long ago, the need for it kept ripening, but it took a very long time for new thinking to be officially adopted at government level. Mikhail Gorbachev made an important personal contribution to this, and so a lot of credit goes to him.

There was also the contribution of the journalists who publicized and argued in favour of that manifesto. Incidentally, I

myself wrote about it in UNESCO Courier a few years ago. The main idea of the new way of political thinking is that all of us irrespective of the classes represent or the nations we belong to, of whether our nations are socialist or capitalist, we must search jointly for ways of delivering mankind from the nuclear threat and from all other global maladies. We must search jointly for ways leading to human survival.

Q: To what extent is new thinking becoming a professional journalist's issue?

A: That depends on every one of us, on our personal attitudes. Journalism is a profession of individuals. Although we often do have to discharge what I might call our public duties, although we often do work together, a journalist usually sits down to reel work when he is alone facing a blank sheet of paper or a computer display. His own expertise, his political stand and his conscience determine what he writes and how he does it.

Unfortunately, some Soviet journalists got addicted to outdated routines, to the beaten path and to old habits. They pictured everything in black and white - although black-and-white images had disappeared even from the television screen and people began to see a multicoloured world in its diversity. But the Soviet TV audience first saw the streets of Western cities and then read newspaper articles dealing only with slums and the unemployed. Journalists blamed that bias on editorial policy, and that was indeed often the case. We

letters

'Yes Prime Minister'

To the editor

I COULD not help being in stitches with laughter at the showing on JTV of the hilariously funny comedy, 'Yes Prime Minister'. The sheer enjoyment one experiences from watching JTV's witest comedy is partly because of the author's meticulous research and original insights, and partly because the programme, for all its hilarity, paints a true picture of the internal tension and confusion at the heart of the British government, a picture that could not be revealed by a factual programme.

The present programme (A sequel to the original 'Yes Minister' which was unique in becoming the first programme ever to win the British Academy Award for the best comedy series for three consecutive years) is in a class of its own. However, the showing of the programme on JTV for viewers, a large portion of whom have no idea of how the political game is played in 10 Downing Street, presents two major problems. The first one is that the majority of our local viewers are not familiar with British related socio-economic and political terminology, eg. the north-south divide and the uneven distribution of wealth between the poor north and the more affluent south, the implications of a cabinet minister getting a posting in war-torn Northern Ireland, and phrases like "chief whip", "catch-22" and "dead on cue". Consequently, many of JTV's viewers may not be able to appreciate the programme justly.

The second problem emanates from linguistics and, to be more precise, the Arabic translation or mis-translation as manifested by the subtitles. At this juncture, one can't sympathize with those given the task of translating the programme without losing too much of the humour in the process, for the series contains a great deal of humour-inducing verbal aerobatics.

I cite as an example, the expressions "one always has a drink before one leaks" and "the ship of the state is the only type of ship that leaks from the top" and last but by no means least, to borrow Sir Humphrey's exact words, one can honestly say that despite all the misgivings one has about the showing of the programme on JTV, it is probably true to say "Yes JTV for screening Yes Prime Minister".

Dr Husem Al-Qasbi
Amman

Divide, rule, and enslave

To the editor

THE ARTICLE entitled 'Bringing Politics Closer to God' appearing in the March 1988 issue of the World Paper (published in the Star issue of 24-30 March 1988) is an attempt to use the name of God in vain. However, this matter does not fall within my jurisdiction simply because there are legitimate reasons for considering it so.

The point I want to stress here is the method used by Satan the devil and his encourage in achieving an impossible but coveted end. "If you can't rule the devil then enslave him." This is the crooked and twisted method used by Satan to overcome an unyielding obstacle. Realizing that, his inevitable end is drawing right. Satan is exerting himself to the utmost in setting son against father, brother against brother, nation against nation and man against God. For what purpose is a Christian converted to Christianity or a Muslim converted to Islam? Satan's sole aim is to split the ranks of the faithful and weaken their resistance to his imperial power.

God will not tolerate detestable aphorisms of influence or occulted centres of power. The day is coming when God will reveal Himself to mankind, and then Satan will be forever debarred from playing havoc with the destinies of men.

George N. Saleh
Amman

7 APRIL 1988

New thinking and journalists

should now abandon that bias completely, and in this sense the journalists specializing in international topics must conduct their own perestroika. Here I might mention the fact that this has already been accomplished by many Soviet journalists who write on domestic subjects. Because of the nature of their work they were aware of many of our flaws and look the country's problems to heart, but they could not discuss those problems openly, for all to hear. Now that opportunities have opened for identifying and discussing shortcomings - not to go over them and win cheap popularity but to tackle them together with the public - it turns out that we have a great many talented journalists writing on domestic topics.

I regret that I cannot say the same about those specializing in foreign affairs. Of course, there are talented journalists among them too, but still the foreign affairs pages of our newspapers remain the least interesting.

Q: But that is a bilateral problem. It appears that Western journalists, too, should overhaul their methods of work. Do you see any changes in the way they cover developments in the Soviet Union?

A: I think that Western journalists - I mean those who are accredited in Moscow - have become more objective in their coverage of events in our country. There are objective reasons for that. At the press conferences and briefings which we hold on a regular basis they receive a great deal of information, and the Soviet press now publishes many interesting items, too. It's difficult to cope with all the information that's available, and this information is about our problems.

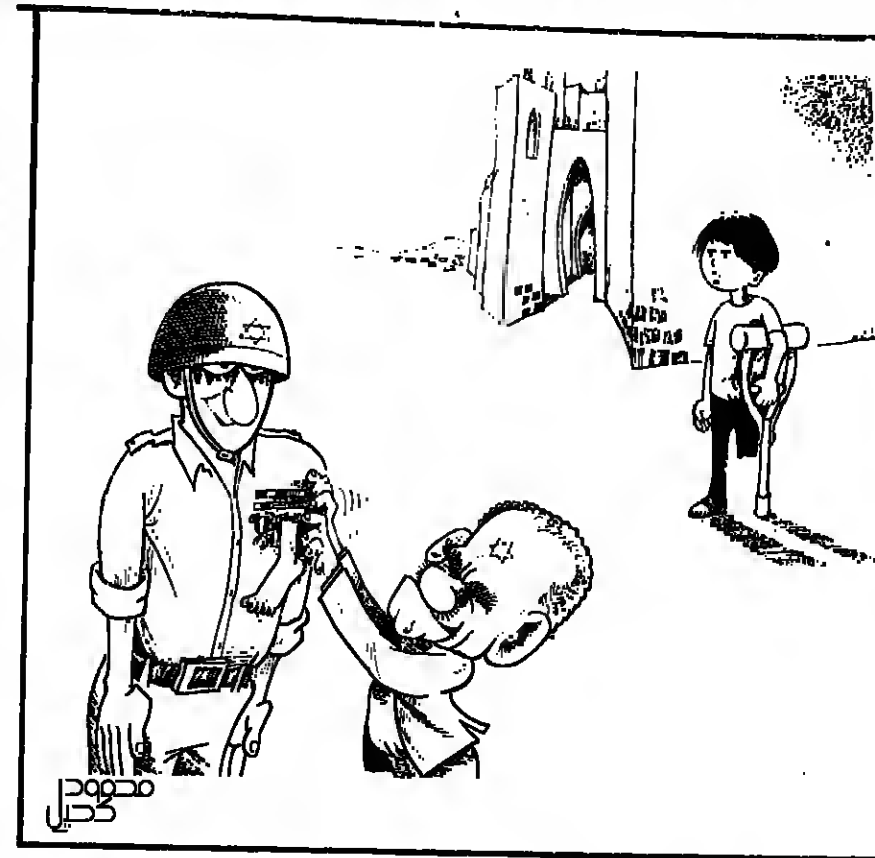
Western newsmen no longer have to lurk out things. But the political bias

"The new idea of the new way of political thinking is that we must search jointly for ways of delivering mankind from the nuclear threat and from all other global maladies."

still remains, and we can't do anything about that. One is forced to say, "Gentlemen, respect your profession and tell it as it is." There are journalists in Moscow who simply invent nonsensical reports. An Italian correspondent has written, for instance, that the Soviet Foreign Ministry is riddled with nepotism and offers jobs to descendants of the czarist aristocracy. He has claimed, for example, that the First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov comes from the family of a count and that Vladimir Petrovsky, deputy minister, has Count Witte, a czarist Prime Minister, as an ancestor. I could list several other names whose genealogy has been fabricated without rhyme or reason. They should have listed me, my name is Greek in origin, so I can claim to be a descendant of Alexander the Great.

Some examples are more vicious. Say, the Voice of America reports that a large batch of narcotic drugs has been found on board a Soviet ship in Montreal. Perhaps that's a half-truth which is worse than any lie. It is true that a Soviet ship indeed brought drugs to Montreal. But the captain was sent from Afghanistan to Canada via Soviet territory. Soviet customs inspectors spotted these drugs, contacted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and told them that the Soviet side could intercept a cargo of drugs bound for Canada. The Canadians replied, "Please don't touch the stuff. We'll wait for the recipient to come and claim it and we'll nail him."

The container was put on board a Soviet ship which took it to Montreal. In other words, it was a Soviet-Canadian operation to combat the drug traffic - something totally different from what the VOA reported. The implication behind that report was that Soviet ships were used to transport narcotic drugs,



perhaps even with Soviet government approval.

I regret that such distortions occur frequently. They are an element of bourgeois journalism, an element which will hardly disappear. I could cite many examples. One is that there was a strong explosion in Kabul on the eve of a congress held by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Some 30 people were killed and several hundred injured. Die Deutsche Welle, the West German government radio station reported that the explosion involved political fighting within the party. How did they learn about it? From what source? There were no explanations, and there could be none, because in actual fact it was sabotage by the counterrevolutionaries.

The list of such reports that distort facts or deal in outright fabrications could go on and on. Unfortunately, it looks like this phenomenon is here to stay. Nevertheless, I would still say that Western bourgeois correspondents tend to be more objective these days.

Q: The things Western journalists will write largely depend on the views of U.S. researchers specializing in Soviet studies. How do they assess developments in your country?

A: Many Sovietologists in the United States have based their careers on anti-Sovietism, on highly biased studies of the Soviet Union. But perestroika of sorts is under way among them too.

In connection with the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution in Russia, Harvard University - that is, its Russian Studies Institute - sponsored in Boston a special workshop for journalists about the Soviet Union. That was some gathering: there were editors-in-chief of many newspapers, officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, and people from the State Department. To them, the principal issue was whether perestroika was real - or was it perhaps a propaganda invention? On the whole, the answer was that perestroika was real because it met the objective requirements of the Soviet Union's development.

Another question was raised earlier by the Director of the CIA. It could be summed up as, "If the changes in the U.S.S.R. are real, is this good or bad for America?" Mr Webster himself had not answered that question.

There were two answers at the workshop. The first, good because the Soviet Union is becoming a partner, not rival in international affairs. But there was also an opposite answer - bad because the Soviet Union will obviously grow stronger, and it has not abandoned its ultimate goal of dominating the world.

Of course, if one proceeds from this anti-Soviet, confrontation-oriented premise, one indeed concludes that the stronger the Soviet Union becomes, the worse it is for America. But this time

Harvard's Russian Studies Institute - which we in the U.S.S.R. called an anti-Soviet centre and whose director Adam Liam I myself blasted and denounced in polemics - maintained that events were developing favourably. The institute held that the United States and the Soviet Union must find common ground in the face of the threat of annihilation after which even the most scrupulous chemical analysis would be unable to tell the ashes of capitalism from the ashes of socialism. That was a phrase of the world-famous scholar John Kenneth

"One could cite numerous examples in the United States where many people actually believe there is a 'Soviet threat', a 'Red peril' that the Soviet Union is willing to attack and invade America."

Galbraith, also from Harvard. The conclusion of the Russian Studies Institute was that the situation being what it was, one should promote rapprochement between the two countries. That is also an element of new thinking and a new imperative for journalists.

Q: You mean that journalists will have to get rid of many stereotypes with which they have been long working, to which they have grown accustomed, and some of which they themselves created?

A: I would describe this phenomenon as auto-intoxication with one's own propaganda clichés. It's something journalists are susceptible to: if you keep talking and writing about a cliché all the time, you may come to believe it yourself. There is this story about a Turkish mullah and the kids who played near his window and interfered with his prayers. So he told them to run off to the bazaar, with the whole street running in their wake. Then the mullah thought, "Maybe there really are free apples there." And he himself ran after the crowd.

One could cite numerous cases of similar attitudes occurring in the United States where many people actually believe that there is indeed a "Soviet threat", a "Red peril", that the Soviet Union is waiting to attack and invade America. These stereotypes can be fought with the help of the great interest the American press and American television are now showing in what is happening in the U.S.S.R. Of course, this interest is explained by the vigorous demand for such news - demand generates supply. For example, "Seven Days in May" and there have been numerous TV satellite hookups. All this helps to overcome the stereotyped attitude to the Soviet Union as an enemy.

Viewpoint

By Ya'coub Ahmad

The bias continues

THE US administration and the Congress are making the United States less and less acceptable as a peace mediator in the Middle East by lending more and more support to Israeli practices and views. A series of incidents in the past few weeks have increased Arab scepticism about the ability of the US administration to play an even-handed role in the search for a genuine peace settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

These began with the US Justice Department's insistence on closing the mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the United Nations in defiance of two resolutions adopted with overwhelming majority by the General Assembly and repeated protests by the UN Secretary General that the closure violates the headquarters agreement between the US and the world organization. The illegal move has been viewed by many as a prelude to excluding the PLO from future peace negotiations.

The United States' position towards the Saudi missile issue has angered one of the most powerful and moderate Arab states which has always tried to maintain friendly ties with Washington. The United States has not only blocked sales of US-made missiles and other weapons to Saudi Arabia but has also opposed the purchase of the missiles from another source in blind compliance with the Israeli attitude.

The latest US outrage came when the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights rudely and openly endorsed Israeli brutality in the occupied Arab territories, including the killing of Palestinian women and children. The man in charge of human rights at the US State Department is seen urging an occupying power to abuse the very basics which govern the world-recognized human rights principles. Many even wonder why Israel has stepped up its inhuman measures against Palestinian civilians following Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's return from a recent visit to the United States. Washington has maintained silence on the increased killing of Palestinians by the Israeli occupation army; prompting speculations that Shamir had been given the green light by Washington to step up his campaign of terror in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Shultz has also modified his position on his peace proposals and no longer insists on reviving a yes or no answer from Shamir on his peace package while time is running short and the dangers are steadily growing.

If the United States and Israel expect the Palestinian uprising to subside as a result of the latest Israeli unprecedented atrocious measures, both are terribly mistaken. In one way or another, the Palestinian uprising will continue and increase in ferocity and determination every time Israel introduces tougher measures. It is either justice for the Palestinians or continuous war whose consequences would spare no one.

Intensification and consolidation

The uprising acquires momentum upon Shultz' arrival



Armed to the teeth, yet frightened

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians were shot and killed Wednesday in a clash with Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank, hospital officials said, and troops took over Arab homes for 10 days for use in army manoeuvres.

Both martyrs were shot in the head in a village near Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, the officials at al Itihad Hospital said. They said two other Palestinians were seriously wounded. The circumstances of the clash were not immediately clear and the army said it was checking the report.

Before Wednesday, 138 Palestinians had been killed by Israelis since the start of the Arab uprising 8 December according to UN figures.

Palestinians staged a general strike and demonstrations to protest the peace shuttle of US Secretary of State George P. Shultz. Israeli soldiers fatally shot one protester and wounded eight other Arabs.

In Jerusalem's walled old city, 600 police were deployed to prevent clashes between Muslims and a group of militant Jews trying to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

Meanwhile, the PLO-affiliated underground leadership called in a leaflet last week for a general strike Monday to protest the Shultz's visit. "We tell everybody to boycott any meetings with Shultz," it said. "Nobody from the Arab world can say, 'yes,' if the PLO says, 'no,'" said Faleh Abu Rahme, a moderate lawyer from Gaza whose name has been raised in the past as a potential non-PLO negotiator.

Also Monday, the Jerusalem Post newspaper said, Hebrew-

language leaflets have been distributed in the West Bank town of Nablus, calling on Israeli soldiers to desert.

"Soldiers go back to your family, go back and take care of your life and your future... I stand a hand to peace and security for both you and us," it read.

Some 1,600 Israeli reserve officers and soldiers sent a letter to Shamir opposing continued occupation and calling for him to "lead the state of Israel to any process of negotiations towards peace that will free us from the slavery of the territories."

In the West Bank village Bani Naim, 30 kilometres south of Jerusalem, soldiers fatally shot one Palestinian and wounded seven, said doctors at nearby Alla Hospital in Hebron. Israeli radio said youths attacked soldiers during an anti-Shultz demonstration.

Reporters en route to Hebron were turned back at an army road block near the West Bank refugee camp Arrub, 20 kilometres south of Jerusalem. Army officials later said the area was closed to journalists for fear their presence would provoke protests.

Three Arabs were killed Sunday, including one electrocuted when soldiers ordered him to climb a utility pole and take down an outlawed Palestinian flag, the army said. A spokeswoman said military police had arrested an investigation into the death of Khalil Jaber Hemzawy, 18.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after a meeting with Shultz that measures to quell the protests were successful. "It may take a bit of time, but we will bring about tranquillity," he said.

Rabin attributed the decline to a combination of measures including a large and aggressive military presence, economic sanctions and mass arrests. A senior defence official who demanded anonymity said 4,000 Palestinians were currently in jail.

In other developments, News-papers reports said Israeli soldiers ordered Arab motorists to remove a road block in the West Bank town El-Bireh, then forced them to bury one of the group under a pile of rocks.

The Biblical city of Bethlehem, which usually bustles with pilgrims during Easter week, turned into a ghost town and a lone tourist was seen walking the streets at mid-day.

A dozen Arab boys hurled stones at soldiers deployed near the main road, and some 400 Bethlehem residents marched through town to protest the killing of an Arab youth by soldiers over the weekend.

In another development, Sheikh Saad Eddin Alami, the multi of Jerusalem and the highest-ranking Islamic religious figure, said he suffered heart problems after an Israeli policeman struck him Friday as he was asking police to let TV cameramen into the Al-Aqsa mosque compound.

"When I was trying to speak to them, one hit me very hard on my back... they pushed me very hard, and I fell," said the 77-year-old multi, speaking in a near-whisper from his bed at Al-Muqassad Hospital, according to news reports.

Earlier in the week, Israeli troops opened fire Saturday on Palestinian youths who attacked them with rocks, bottles, knives and metal bars in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, killing four, the army said. Two Israeli soldiers were injured.

In Gaza city, protesters hurled knives and metal rods at troops petroling a main street and tried to seize their weapons, an army spokesman said. Soldiers opened fire on the attackers, killing three, he said.

During the scuffle, one Israeli soldier suffered medium stab wounds and was evacuated to a nearby Israeli hospital, the army spokesman said. Another soldier was lightly injured, he said.

There were conflicting reports on the number of wounded protesters. The army said two protesters were wounded by gunfire, but Palestinian journalists set the number as high as 13.

In Beit Lihya and in Deir Al

Sudan, troops Saturday fired on attacking protesters after tear-gas and rubber bullets failed to repel them, the army spokesman said. He said one protester was killed in each village but had no further details.

However, Arabs hurling fire-bombs ambushed an Israeli army patrol Friday in the occupied West Bank and troops opened fire, killing two Palestinians and wounding at least 13, the army said.

The clash occurred hours after Israel lifted a three-day closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and ended a round-the-clock curfew in Gaza.

In Jerusalem, Christians observed Good Friday and Jews celebrated the start of the weeklong Passover festival.

under heavy police and army guard because of the unrest.

In another development, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in a statement issued Sunday reaffirmed its rejection of the American-Middle East peace plan. (see page 25). A statement from the PLO's Executive Committee said the Palestinian people were unanimous in wanting "to thwart the dangerous American plans."

It said "the just end global solution must be based on the achievement of the national rights of the Palestinian people under the direction of the PLO its sole, legitimate representative."

The Palestinian organization also re-stated "its categorical refusal of all projects aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause, and said that "the adequate framework for a just solution resides in an international conference."

Honour Roll

- Rajab Ahmad Al-Saleibi, 75, Shati Camp — Gaza Strip
- Ishaq Abu Sha'ban, 60, Gaza city
- Hamza Ibrahim Abu Shab, 22, Bani Seheila — Gaza Strip
- Hamid Abdel Mohdi Al-Zaydat, 18, Bani Naim — West Bank
- Ali Dhiab Abu Ali, 40, Yatta — West Bank
- Ma'moun Abdel Rahim Jarad, 15, Tulkarm, West Bank
- Khalid Jaber Hamzawi, 18, Askar Camp — West Bank
- Nasser Abdullah Kamil, 20 days, Qabatyah — West Bank
- Jamil Rashid Al-Kurdi, 55 — Gaza
- Ahmad Khamis Al-Kurdi, 40 — Gaza
- Ala' Ahmad Khamis Al-Kurdi, 21 — Gaza
- Salim Khalaf Salim, Al-Shaer, 23, Bethlehem — West Bank
- Jamal Khalil Tamimi, 20, Idna — West Bank
- Ishaq Naim Sleimeh, 18, Idna — West Bank
- Wajih Yousuf Rabi, 50, Deir Abu Mishal — West Bank
- Abdul Karim Taha Al-Haleyya, 25, Sheyokh — West Bank
- Khalid Mohammad Salah, 22, Burqah — West Bank
- Hosni Mohammad Shahin, 24, Al-Yamoun — West Bank
- Ahmad Ghazi Dheeb, 10, Shelkh Mowanis — Occupied Palestine
- Shaker Ali Malleish, 20, Dir Ibzei — West Bank
- Musa Azmi, 30, Zeita — West Bank
- Iyad Azmi, 21, Zeita — West Bank
- Ma'rauf Mahmoud Noaman, 27, Zeita — West Bank
- Sulaiman Ahmad Aljundi, 17, Alyamoun — West Bank
- Mohammed Faris Zaben, 25, Alyamoun — West Bank
- Musa Saleh Abu Shamseh, 20, Beita — West Bank
- Hatem Fayed Al-Jabr 22, Beita — West Bank

Eyeless in Gaza and the West Bank

Editor's Note: Although considered the unofficial voice of the Zionist lobby in the United States, The New York Times Tuesday editorialized on the situation in the occupied territories and following is a reprint of excerpts from the editorial.

Claiming the need to maintain public safety and public order, Israel has closed down for six months the Arab-owned Palestine press Service. This follows wider closures last week: the entire West Bank and Gaza were sealed from press scrutiny for three days. In the apparent belief that a 16-week uprising has been staged principally for the benefit of reporters and cameras. The theory is dubious and the remedy obvious.

Every day brings news of fresh clashes in scattered villages in the occupied territories. Israeli and foreign correspondents were able until last week to get reasonably accurate information from the Palestinian press service, which has hundreds of local informants. Obviously, the agency has an interest in generating sympathy for Palestinian claims, but its influence depends on its accuracy. Because of that reputa-

tion for accuracy, it has been able to dispel rumours about riots and casualties and thus deter further bloodshed.

Managed news won't improve Israel's image abroad. More important for Israel, its citizens would be denied their government essential information. Two months ago, press accounts confirmed claims that Israeli soldiers buried four Palestinian youths alive.

"In Israel, however, it's hard to believe that the uprising will vanish along with the cameras. For Israel to ban the cameras invites comparison with South Africa and obtains only temporary relief at a harsh sacrifice of its own values.

Report from Israel

The yellow wind — I

Editor's Note:

The following is the first of a set of expositions from the book "The Yellow Wind" by David Grossman. The book originally appeared in Hebrew and was later translated by Helm Watzman. Grossman's book was censored by the Israeli authorities and was later released for publication missing two chapters, the first article of which we run this week.

saw it." His father, apparently, was born here, but his grandfather came from Jaffa. "And is it beautiful, Jaffa?" "Yes. It has orchards and vineyards and the sea."

And farther along the path I meet a young girl sitting on a concrete wall and reading an illustrated magazine. I ask where she is from. She is from Lod, not far from Ben-Gurion International Airport. Forty years ago, it was an Arab town. She is sixteen. She tells me of the beauty of Lod. Of its houses, which were as big as palaces. "And in every room a hand-painted car-

pet for us to escape from it, and then they will never let us return to it. "It's all bollocks," the old woman who reminds me of my grandmother says, laughing.

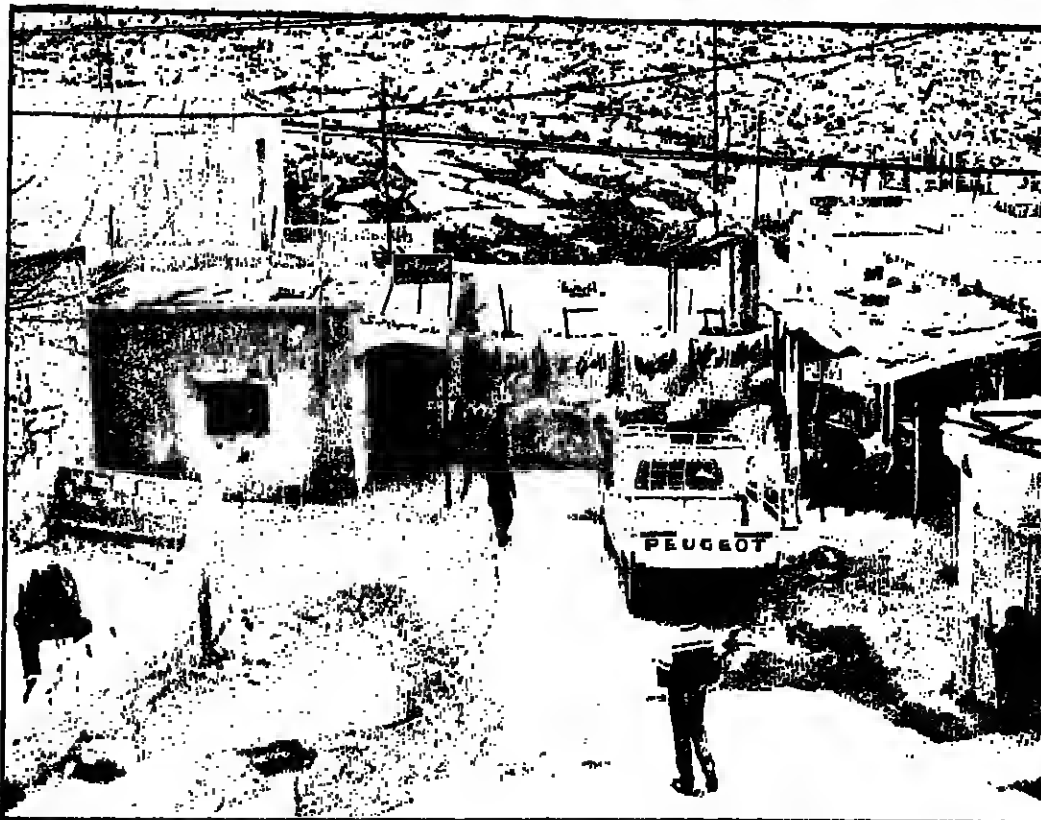
Someone once said, "The strongest weapon the Arabs in the occupied territories can deploy against us is not to change. And it is true — when you walk through the Dheisheh camp, you feel that that conception has unconsciously internalized itself here."

Khadija suddenly remembers: "There, in the village, in Ain Azrab, we baked bread over a straw-fire. Not here. Because

penetrating things from the women. It is the women who march at the head of the demonstrations, who shout, who scream out before the television cameras: women with sharp features, women bearing marks of suffering. Khadija is seventy-five years old; her mind is clear and her body healthy. "Allah ykhalik," I say to her ("May God preserve you!")

She laughs to herself, and says: "What is it to him?" and explains to me that a man is like a stalk of wheat — when he turns yellow, he bends.

She has lived in this house, a



Dheisheh camp

pet. And the land was wonderful, and the sky was always blue. "Have you visited Lod?" "Of course not." "Aren't you curious to see it now?" "Only when we return." This is how the others answer me also.

The Palestinians, as is well-known, are making use of ancient Jewish strategy of exile, and have removed themselves from history. They close their eyes against reality and stubbornly fabricate their Promised Land. "Next year in Jerusalem," said the Jews in Latvia and in Krakow and in San'a, and the meaning was that they were not willing to compromise, because they had no hope of any real change. Here, too, again and again, that absolute demand: everything — Lod and Hebron and Jaffa and Jerusalem. And in the meantime nothing.

It's all "bollocks", the Palestinians say. Even those who can pronounce the "p" in "politics" — the word has become part of the Palestinians' vocabulary — will say "bollocks", as a sign of defiance, in which there is a sort of self-mockery. It's all bollocks — the Turks and the British. And the Israelis, who change our laws and deprive us of our land and our tradition and our honour, who have constructed for us here a gilded cage, a prison, and what they really want is

here we don't have livestock, and their belongings." She falls silent and hugs herself. Her fingers go through the motions of kneading.

Everything happens elsewhere, in some splendid past or longed-for future. The thing most present here is absence. One senses that people here have voluntarily turned themselves into doubles of the real people who once existed in some other place. Into people who hold in their hands only one real asset: the ability to wait.

About half a million Palestinian refugees live today in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, there are about four hundred thousand. (I am speaking here only of refugees or their descendants, and not of the entire Arab population under Israeli rule.) In Jordan, there are about eight hundred and fifty thousand. In Lebanon, there are some two hundred and fifty thousand. Syria also has about two hundred and fifty thousand. A total of about two and a quarter million refugees. Even if the problem of the refugees living under Israeli rule is solved, the bitterness of their more than a million brothers in the Arab countries, living in no less appalling conditions, will remain.

I drink tea with three women in Dheisheh. One hears the most

standard refugee house, for nearly forty years. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) built it, and the UN symbol can still be found on the walls and doors. The house consists of two small rooms.

The electricity is often out, and today, because it is raining, the house is almost completely dark. Khadija and her sister sit on a straw-mat and examine some medicine that the camp doctor has prescribed for the sister, who suffers from asthma.

The teachers and doctors who work in the refugee camps often come from outside, from the nearby cities. The simplest jobs, cleaning and sanitation and construction, are done by camp residents.

In the house in which I am sitting live five people. In the room where we are drinking our tea is one cabinet, with a suitcase on top. There are a few wooden chairs, made by an untrained hand, a few shelves holding vegetables.

The daughter-in-law, tanned, offers orange and a peering knife. An item of furniture found in every house here is the dowry chest of the woman of the house, made from the soft trunk of the Judas tree. Here she keeps her dowry: the bed-sheets, the wedding-dress, and perhaps some childish luxury toy, a pretty handkerchief, Af-

ter all, she was no more than a girl when she was married.

"And if someone were to offer you today a dunam — a quarter acre, the standard measure of land in countries once under Turkish rule — of land in a nice place, with light, in the open air?"

Yes, yes, she laughs, "of course, but only on my own land. There."

She decides this, like the politicians. She, at least, has the right to do so. I try to remember how many times Palestinian leaders made opportunities to gain for themselves and their people a homeland: there was a partition proposal in '37, and another proposal in '47, and may be there were other chances. We drink silently. The man is at work. On the wall are two rails, which serve as a wardrobe. On one hangs the black "iqal" (headband) of a "kalfiyeh."

Whoever has served in the army in the territories knows how such rooms look from the inside during the night. Whoever has taken part in searches, in imposing curfews, in capturing a suspect at night remembers the violent entry into rooms like this one, where several people are sleeping, crowded three or four together under wool-blankets, wearing their work clothes in their sleep, as if ready at any moment to get up and go wherever they are told. They wake in confusion, squinting from the flashlight; children cry, sometimes a couple are making love.

Khadija follows my gaze to the bare concrete walls, the heating lamp, the wool-blanket rolled up on the floor. Suddenly, she bolts over: "Do we look like gypsies, do we? Miserable, are we? Hat We are people of culture!" Her sister, the sick woman, nods rapidly, her sharp chin stabbing at her sunken chest: "Yes, yea, people of culture!"

The young woman, the daughter-in-law, wants to say something but is silent. Her hand clamps her mouth closed. I am confused. The young woman tries to make amends. Change the subject. Is her mother-in-law willing to tell this Israeli here about, for instance, her childhood in Ain Azrab? No. Is she willing to recall the days when she worked the land? No. Salt in a wound. Would you be willing, ya mama, to sing the songs the fellahim, the vinegrowers, the shepherds sang then? No. She only tightens her cracked lips stubbornly, her balding head shaking, but her left foot begins to tap to a far-off rhythm, and her body moves silently forward end back, and as she traps my cautious gaze she staps her thigh with a trembling hand, and her nose reddens with rage: "Culture! You people don't know that we have culture! You can't understand this culture. It's not a culture of television." Suddenly, she is completely emptied of her anger; once again, her face takes on an expression of defeat. Her eyes close, and she nods in sorrow, as if to say, "You can't understand this culture. It's not a culture of television." Suddenly, she is completely emptied of her anger; once again, her face takes on an expression of defeat. Her eyes close, and she nods in sorrow, as if to say, "You can't understand this culture. It's not a culture of television. Aek, my be, your grandmother to tell you."

Again in Dheisheh. It is a quiet day today. No demonstrations. No stone-throwing. The army can be seen only from afar, riding along the road. (A week later, there would be riots and demonstrations, and rocks would fly, and around Dheisheh would rise a six-metre fence, to prevent stones from being thrown at passing cars.

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Soviet Muslims—The muted caliphate

By Maryam Schiller
Special to The Star

Ruealan Mualima during prayers

VIENNA — At the height of the Armenian protests in the Soviet Asian republic Azerbaijan, an academic gave this judgement during a graduate working session: "When the Soviet Armenians get noisy, wait for the Soviet Muslims to whisper."

The provocative, albeit prophetic, quality of that judgement is supported by the stark facts of the Islamic presence in the Soviet Union. The 50 million Soviet Muslims comprise one of the largest concentrations of Muslim population outside the Arab world, China or the rest of Asia. And yet Soviet Muslims present an exceptional kaleidoscope of ethnic, cultural and regional diversity.

The Soviet Muslims' cultural and social origins similarly are disparate. The Tadzhik Muslims are drawn from an ancient urban people. The Kazakh within living memory were nomads. The Pamirs still live in isolation in their mountainous valleys. The Tatars came to the Volga in the 13th century as conquerors, then stayed. The Caucasians are the descendants of the aboriginal population of the Caucasus.

The Soviet Muslims' early experiences were not identical. The oasis-dwellers of Central Asia were among the first to convert to Islam, within 50 years of the Hijra (AD 622). The Arab conquest carried Islam to Transcaucasia and, by the eighth century, Daghestan such as the Tatars and Keltaks started to become Muslims. The Ottoman campaigns in the 16th and 17th centuries, coinciding with Salafid influences, reinforced Islam in the Caucasus.

At the time of the Soviet revolution, the Soviet Muslims still

large numbers of Muslims still last during Ramadan, though

they do not get time off work, and mosques are packed during Eid Al-Fitr, the feast after Ramadan, and Eid Al-Adha, the feast of sacrifice. Many burials are still performed according to Muslim custom. Circumcision, complete with its testing and ceremony, is widespread.

About 90 per cent of the Soviet Muslims are Sunni, mostly of the Hanafi school, and the rest are Shia, including most of the Kurds and the Azerbaijanis. There are smaller numbers of Ismailis, followers of the Paris-based Aga Khan, and Sunnis of the Shafi'i school.

There is, as yet, little indication of how Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's glasnost will affect the directorates system, which is based on a geographical division and has functioned satisfactorily, publishing the Quran, versions of the Hadith and religious journals and books.

Experts are also awaiting the outcome of community efforts to collect greater donations to build or repair mosques. Most mosques currently are maintained by

communities, and some new ones have been built in the 1980s, but Soviet authorities still remain sensitive to queries about numbers of mosques in the USSR or their locations.

Some estimates by exiles suggest that only about 500 mosques survive, half of them in the European republics and Shania. The central Asian region, best known for the concentration of Muslims, has the least number of mosques.

The Soviet official attitude toward Islam, or religion in general, before Gorbachev was marked by duplicity. Not only did the state publish the Quran but also (for more numerous books and pamphlets in Russian and Islamic languages denouncing religion. There was also a tendency to publish more useful works in Arabic script, which many of the young could not read.

Despite these obstacles, however, the Islamic peoples have benefited from and unintentional population boom, the result of their entrenched orthodoxy. The Tajik and the Uzbek communities, for example, grew nearly 36 per cent in a decade, according to Soviet census reports. This was a period marked by an average growth of 0.9 per cent a year in Soviet population.

Although differences between the Islamic communities are religion and region often the only bond, other than Soviet citizenship, that bond is not to be underrated. But, instead of looking to the Soviet Muslims as latent Islamic revolutionaries, it may be possible to see them merely as individual groups who are likely to seek recognition on a nationalistic level, just as the Armenians are doing.

Maryam Schiller is a writer and researcher based in Vienna.

Palestinians and spurious scholars

By Naeem Abdallah
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — No detailed account of the current Palestinian unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories has been considered complete in the United States without reference to the Jordanian and Egyptian rule over the West Bank and Gaza respectively.

Edward Said, the Palestinian scholar and author of the celebrated exposé *Orientalism*, has launched himself into the most ambitious attempt yet to demolish and publicize historical untruths which, he says, lie at the centre of the Palestinian unsuccessful bid for a homeland.

"It is by no means an exaggeration to say that the establishment of Israel as a state in 1948 occurred partly because the Zionist acquired control of most of territory of Palestine, and partly because they had already won the political battle for Palestine in the international world in which ideas, representations, rhetoric and images were at issue," Said says in *Blaming the Victims*, a collection of pieces on the Palestinian question which he edited with journalist Christopher Hitchens.

He recalls that almost from the moment that Israel came into being in 1948 the West was deluged with a whole series of narratives and images that acquired the solidity and the legitimacy of 'truth'. As the book points out, 'the politics of history' meant tampering with history to serve the present, especially Israel's claims to the land.

For example, Said recalls, in spite of the presence of a com-



Edward Said

mon 87 per cent majority of Palestinian Arabs who owned over 80 per cent of the land in 1948 (after decades of Jewish immigration and settlement) "the world heard of an 'empty' territory whose inhabitants brutally opposed Jewish settlement in Zion even after the Holocaust had occurred."

The myths proliferated and became a system which, in the West at least, became difficult to deny. From 'facts' such as that the Arabs left Palestine because their leaders told them to do so, the system moved on to further elaborations, such as that the Palestinians do not exist, Jordan is really Palestine and Israel offers the West peace while being surrounded by Arab bandits or hypocrites.

"Yet there was always plenty of evidence to refute most, if not all, these myths," he says. "The principal purpose was not only to gain support for Israel, but also to conceal the appalling hu-

man cost to the Palestinians of Israel's successes," says Said.

"Somewhere the myths have led a life of their own. Today, they appear more sublimely absurd than they did four decades ago, and still they keep appearing," he says citing Shimon Peres' version of Israeli history in the New York Times Magazine as late as October 1986, when he was prime minister.

Said points out that most Israeli accounts of Zionist achievements are peopled by recognizable figures, while the Palestinian version is still presented to the West in a way that makes it appear alien.

In a comment that mirrors his own experience, Said says that "most Palestinians speaking their history are unlikely to be of (however much they may be in) the West. Their language is Arabic, their religion Islam or Eastern Christianity, their culture decidedly un-Western."

The book, in particular a piece by Norman Finkelstein, offers a scathing insight into the American reception given to that discredited piece of demographic disinformation, *From Time Immemorial*, by Joan Peters, published to great acclaim in 1984.

Recalling the uproar that followed the book's publication, Said remarks that "where discussion of Israel is concerned, the United States is well below Israel in norms of truth and methods of debate."

Neom Chomsky, in another piece on terrorism and American ideology, writes that the real reason for the 1982 Israeli invasion

of Lebanon was not the threat to northern Galilee, as the sanitized history would have it, but rather the opposite, as was explained by Hebrew University Professor Yehoshua Porath.

The decision to invade, Porath explained, flowed from the very fact that the ceasefire had been observed by the PLO in southern Lebanon. This was a veritable catastrophe for the Israeli government, he says, because it threatened the policy of evading a political settlement.

Among the book's strong points is Said's piece *The Essential Terrorist*, in which he cites the difference between "today's pseudoscholarship and expert jargon about terrorism" and literature about Third World national liberation guerrillas two decades ago.

Most of the earlier material was subject to the slower and therefore more careful procedure of research and print. But, he says, the modern discourse on terrorism usually consists of yesterday's newspaper or today's television bulletin.

"Most writing about terrorism is brief, plucky, totally devoid of the scholarly armature of evidence, proof, argument, its paradigm is the television interview, the spot news announcement, the instant gratification one associates with the Reagan White House's 'resiliency time,' the evening news," says Said.

Naeem Abdallah is a writer and researcher based in Washington, D.C.

7 APRIL 1988

Shultz swims against the current

By Wafa Amr
Special to The Star

DESPITE THE obvious problems facing the "American peace plan" which prompted US Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz to undertake his third Middle East shuttle on Sunday, analysts believe that Shultz is more determined to extract positive replies to his plan.

The Arab position on the US peace plan is now clearer. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) insists on a separate delegation in any peace process, arguing that the Shultz plan ignores the PLO and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

According to a Palestinian analyst, "Shultz is not pushing for PLO representation in the peace process. What he brings with him is an updated version of the Camp David Accords." He added that there can be no solution to the Palestinian problem if the US continues its refusal to speak with the PLO and denies the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to the establishment of their own independent state.

The Arab response to the plan was delayed until a unified negotiating position has been reached particularly between Syria, Jordan and the PLO. Consensus, it seems, has been reached, but for the mere agreement that the Arab countries should not be the first to refuse the American plan. Egypt has publicly supported the plan and regards Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's opposition as the main obstacle.

Jordan, on the other hand, welcomes the American endorsement of the idea of an international conference, on the condition that such a conference has authoritative powers, and should include the PLO as a negotiating partner within a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. "Jordan cannot afford to accept Shultz's plan as it is, particularly as the uprising in the occupied territories has created new and fundamental realities that cannot be ignored," an observer said. He added that Jordan has been rallying Arab support for its reply, and invited Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, to Amman to co-ordinate positions before Shultz returns to the region. Observers speculate the possibility of Arafat's arrival in Amman after his scheduled 7 April visit to Moscow.

Some Jordanian observers expressed fear that the US administration might exercise political and economic pressures on Jordan to accept the Shultz plan. Some even said that Israel and the United States may push Jordan on another front, calling for making Jordan a substitute homeland for the Palestinian people in an attempt to force Jordan to make compromises which it cannot afford to make.

An American source however, refuted such arguments and said that "Shultz is not coming to apply any kind of pressure on Jordan, nor will there be economic blackmail of any sort." He pointed out that Shultz is here to first visit weeks ago, and to show the Arabs that he is serious to his efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jordanian sources expressed hope that Shultz will apply pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to accept the idea of exchanging land for peace.

Arab sources said that during Shultz's visit to Saudi Arabia, he



Can Shultz be plunging into hot water?

will seek Saudi help to influence Jordan's position on the proposed plan. Shultz told reporters in Rome last week that the Saudis are in favour of the US initiative. Saudi Arabia has recently acquired Chinese-made long-range missiles — a deal which sent Israeli officials reeling with anger and voicing their threats. Analysts argue that, in return for the Saudi role in the peace plan, the US administration could promise to calm Israel and to dissuade it from carrying out its threat to strike Saudi military bases.

Israel, on the other hand, remains bitterly divided over the

plan, with only the Foreign Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, publicly endorsing it, while Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir remains in opposition. On 3 April, The Washington Post quoted a senior Jordanian official as saying: "The US administration seems less interested in sticking to agreed upon positions than in extracting Jordanian concessions for use as a catalyst to effect Israeli elections scheduled for November."

On his first visit to Amman on Tuesday, the US secretary of state said that the US sees, in answer to the Palestinian problem, a confederation between

Palestinians and an Arab country, namely Jordan or Egypt, that have special relationships with the people in the occupied territories. He also voiced his administration's opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, referring to the idea as illogical and that they see "no sense or logic in it because the West Bank and Gaza do not form an effective economic unit, which would lead to more conflict."

Sources told The Star that Shultz's proposal does not meet the basic Palestinian or Arab demands. "The PLO refuses to establish a confederation with any

Arab country. It calls for the establishment of an independent state and rejects the idea of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation."

A Jordanian close to the government implied that Jordan will not accept Shultz's plan as it does not accept the idea of a confederation. He added that if Shultz's ideas are not developed in order to be accepted by Jordan and all the other Arab countries, there will be no solution.

It seems Jordan is distressed with Shultz's statements during his talks in Jordan "so it looks like there's a deadlock." Many questions still need answers.

Musa Sadr
Can he still surprise us?

Imam Musa Sadr of Lebanon disappeared during an official visit to Libya in August 1978. Since then the circumstances of his disappearance have been the subject of numerous books, television programmes and public comment by everyone except the men who ought to know his whereabouts or fate, Libyan leader Muammer Al-Qadhafi. Now a cousin of the Imam, exiled Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, says he believes the Iranian-born leader is alive and may appear in public soon.

By Sejid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON — The crudest explanation is that in the absence of his body, the mystery remains unsolved. Imam Musa Sadr, the Iranian-born leader of the Shia community of Lebanon, disappeared during a visit to Libya in August 1978. It wasn't an event likely to be ignored by his followers or the media, but in the intervening years, the Imam has grown in public estimation — "turned into an icon," according to Oxford professor Albert Hourani — and remains an important factor of Lebanon's complex politics.

"If he reappears, and I am sure he will, Lebanon's most notorious problem with the Western hostilities will be solved," says his Iranian cousin in Paris, exiled Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani. The Ayatollah, president of the Shia-based Council of the Shia Muelet of Europe, spoke during a visit to London on 28 March.

Ayatollah Rouhani, whose international contacts range from Pope Paul VI in the Vatican to President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon and many others whom he wishes not to identify, spoke with confidence about information he had received about the Imam.

To divulge the sources of his information or its exact nature, he said, would be to jeopardize

the Imam's chances of "reappearance" — he didn't say "release". But, Ayatollah Rouhani said, he was aware that Sadr was being held against his will in an "African" country. Libya is an African country, but Rouhani wouldn't specify that Sadr was still in Libya.

The sensational nature of the news that Rouhani has already led some Middle Eastern media to accuse him of spinning a yarn or being used by someone else "one knows not for what reason."

Indeed within hours of the news that Rouhani had information about Imam Sadr's imminent reappearance, President Gemayel and Nabih Berri, the Amal militia leader, and other Lebanese notables called him at his Paris residence.

"They all wanted to know what the source of my information was," Rouhani said. "Even though I had sold information, I could not take the risk and spill the beans. But I have staked my reputation on this, so naturally I must be confident that the information which I have is sound."

Ayatollah Rouhani, who opposes Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, hails from a large Shia clerical family with links in Iran and Iraq and Lebanon. His relationship with Sadr, Rouhani said, stems from the fact that his maternal grandfather, Ayatollah Ahmed Tabataba'i Qomi

and Sadr's maternal grandfather, Hossein Tabataba'i Qomi, were brothers.

"I am constantly under pressure from the family in Qom to do something to find out the whereabouts of Imam Sadr," he said. Consequently, his recent efforts were devoted to finding out exactly what had gone wrong during that summer trip in 1978, when Sadr was invited to Libya as a special guest of Qadhafi.

Rouhani believes that according to his sources, Imam Sadr should appear soon in Cairo although, he says, the Egyptian authorities appear to be unaware of any such possibility. "The issues in Lebanon, as I see them, are very much interlinked," Rouhani said. "Their lack of resolution stems from the fact that a central chimeric figure, i.e. Imam Sadr, has not been on the scene for well over a decade. But when he reappears the problems will come much nearer to resolution. It will be possible, for example, to expect a resolution of the hostage problem."

While the basis of Ayatollah Rouhani's optimism remains a mystery, there are long-term questions concerning Sadr which remain unanswered. Nine years of absence from a country torn by war have secured Sadr a place in Lebanese history as a martyr. He is unlikely to be expunged from it, irrespective of whether he is dead or alive or judged to be a saint or an ordinary politician. Current history gives him the attributes of both.

Sadr, born in the Iranian clergy's centre of Qom, came to Lebanon aged 31 in 1959. It was a time of a spiritual vacuum in the Shia community there, and Sadr quickly filled it. He proceeded also to learn to speak Arabic



Imam Musa Sadr without a Persian accent.

Peter Theroux, in his 1987 book on the Imam's disappearance, said that Qadhafi and Sadr might also have quarreled following Sadr's objection to the Libyan leader's crackdown on the Libyan Islamic clergy. Before Sadr disappeared, the two leaders were reported on the war path over the Imam's hostility to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which Qadhafi supported at the time.

According to Rouhani, early Iranian government attempts to trace Sadr were thwarted by a strong pro-Libyan lobby, including Mehdi Hashemi, the cleric who was executed last year for plotting against Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, Khomeini's de facto No. 2.

Rouhani's claim that Sadr may be alive or is likely to surface soon is backed indirectly by Theroux, who argues that Qadhafi need not have acted against Sadr within Libya. Also, Western reports as late as 1981 said that Sadr was being held prisoner in Kutra, an oasis in the southeast of the Libyan desert.

But the one man likely to be most helpful in determining Sadr's whereabouts, Muammer Al-Qadhafi, has offered no comment on the current speculation. Rouhani says that he has not been in touch with Qadhafi.

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Every Week



By Dr. Nabil El-Sharif

Forty years
of
blood-letting

NEXT SATURDAY (9 April), forty years will have passed since the Zionists committed one of their most brutal atrocities in human history — i.e. the Dir-Yasin massacre in which Zionist gangs killed 254 men, women and children on 9 April, 1948. Even the Israeli Military Encyclopedia describes the Dir-Yasin events as "a massacre that marked a turning point in the Arab-Zionist conflict."

Dir Yasin was indeed a turning point in the Zionist schama because it was intended to achieve two goals: (1) The evacuation of Arab villages and towns. (2) The expansion of the geographical areas under Zionist influence.

Stories of the horrors that took place on that day when Zionist gangs were let loose on the Arab village of Dir-Yasin were circulated and caused public panic that led to the evacuation of many villages and towns. It was said that the Zionists stabbed pregnant women with spears, killing both woman and fetus. It was also reported that the Zionists buried men and women alive.

The bloody highlights of Israel's brutal existence for the past forty years are indeed a repeated sequence of atrocities modelled after the manner of Dir-Yasin. In October of the same year, Zionist gangs entered the village of Deir Yassin, near Al-Khail (not Hebron), and attacked the villagers in the mosque where they were performing their Friday prayers, killing 70 men inside the mosque, and 80 women and children in a nearby cave where they hid from the blood-thirsty gangsters. Other 230 people died in their houses which were blown up without prior notice by the Zionists.

In 1953, Ariel Sharon, the present trade minister of Israel, masterminded and led the Zionist gangs to the town of Qibyah, where they committed a hellish massacre. In 1956, and later in 1970, Sharon also was responsible for two massacres in Kotir Qasim and in Gaza. Sabra and Shatila are two recent blood-stained spots in Zionist history.

Israel, which seems to be very faithful to its pattern of massacres and terrorism, is still following that same brutal route in its attempt to repress the current uprising in the occupied territories. The Zionist State should declare that it has abandoned the policy of massacres that it started in Dir-Yasin before any discussion about peace can start.

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ORIENT EXPRESS



SHULTZ: DEUXIEME TOURNÉE — Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain, M. George Shultz, a entamé le 3 avril une deuxième tournée de négociations au Proche-Orient. Avant de repartir le 5 mars, il aura visité Tel-Aviv, Amman, Damas, Le Caire et Riyad pour tenter d'obtenir des uns et des autres une réponse officielle à son plan de paix. M. Shultz rejette toujours l'idée d'une conférence internationale, à l'inverse de M. Pères, ministre des Affaires étrangères israélien. Mais M. Shultz refuse d'être le premier à dire "non" au plan Shultz, sur lequel les pays arabes ne se sont toujours pas officiellement prononcés.

COURTE PEINE POUR LES SOLDATS AU BULLDOZER — Les deux soldats israéliens qui avaient tenté d'enterrer vivants quatre jeunes Palestiniens à l'aide d'un bulldozer, le 5 février, ont été condamnés à cinq et six mois de prison ferme par le tribunal de Jaffa. Les juges ont accepté de repousser leur incarcération afin de leur permettre de passer Pâques en famille.

FERMETURE DE L'AGENCE DE PRESSE PALESTINIENNE A JERUSALEM — La police israélienne a fermé le 30 mars pour six mois l'agence Presse Palestine Service (PPS), à Jérusalem. PPS constituait une précieuse source d'information sur les territoires occupés, c'est la folie pour la presse israélienne et pour les journalistes étrangers à Jérusalem.

ATTAQUE IRANIENNE AU KOWEIT — Trois vedettes iraniennes ont ouvert le feu le 30 mars contre des positions de l'armée koweïtienne installées sur l'île de Boubayane, au nord-ouest du Golfe, faisant deux blessés selon les autorités koweïtiennes. Téhéran a qualifié cette accusation d'"histoire imaginaire". Le Conseil de la Ligue Arabe a condamné l'attaque irienne et assuré le Koweït de son soutien.

LA SANTE ARABE A AMMAN — La 13ème session du Conseil des ministres de la santé arabes s'est tenue à Amman du 3 au 5 avril. Les débats ont principalement porté sur l'aide sanitaire arabe aux territoires occupés et sur la coopération inter-arabe.

RFI EN LANGUE ARABE — Depuis le 28 mars, Radio-France internationale émet en langue arabe, de 14 à 15h00 (localité) sur 2,260 KHz, une onde courte, le 14h00, et le 14h30, le journal du Proche-Orient. L'information est assurée d'antenne politique et culturelle avec des invités.

UNE INTERVIEW DE L'ANCIENNE MINISTRE DE L'INFORMATION

Leila Sharaf: debout les femmes!

Ministre de l'Information en 1984-85, Leila Sheraf a beaucoup fait pour la condition féminine. Elle et son mari, Abdul Hemid Sheraf (premier ministre en 1979, décédé en 1980) ont œuvré dans le sens d'une modernisation de la société et des mœurs. Aujourd'hui, Leila Sheraf dresse le bilan de cette évolution.

— Vous étiez Libanaise d'origine. Comment svez-vous vécu les premières années de votre vie?

— Le Liban n'est pas un pays comme les autres. Sa situation géographique (littoral), pluriculturelle et historique en font un lieu ouvert, cosmopolite. Et bien avant les autres pays arabes, les femmes y ont eu des possibilités d'agir. Dans les années 80, nous vivions déjà de nombreuses et influentes femmes d'affaires, d'écrivains, de journalistes, etc. Personnellement, je suis née dans une famille très libérale, pour laquelle la femme était l'égal de l'homme. Et j'ai eu les mêmes possibilités que mon frère pour voyager, étudier...

— Etudiez-vous, quelles étaient vos activités?

Vers 1958-59, je suis entrée au mouvement des nationalistes arabes. J'avais alors 19 ans et j'étudiais la littérature à l'université américaine de Beyrouth. A l'époque, il y avait une éternelle querelle des idées politiques, comme celles du parti Baas, par exemple. Pour beaucoup de jeunes filles, faire de la politique était l'occasion de s'imposer, de trouver leur place. J'ai également travaillé pour le mouvement social du père Grégoire Haddad, et à la télévision où j'étais présentatrice des nouvelles.

— Et puis vous êtes venue en Jordanie, en 1985. Les femmes y avaient-elles la même place?

Lorsque je suis arrivée ici, ma vie a été complètement changée. J'étais loin des activités que m'offrait le Liban. Ici, les femmes étaient encore cantonnées à leurs tâches familiales. Quelques sociétés féminines marginales, mais aucun mouvement sérieux. Mon mari, Abdul Hemid Sheraf, était alors ministre de l'Information. Et moi, je suis devenue "la femme du ministre". En 1987, nous sommes partis pour neuf ans aux Etats-Unis, où mon mari a été ambassadeur puis représentant de la Jordanie aux Nations-Unies. Là-bas, je suis redevenue active. J'étais présidente de la société des femmes musulmanes de Washington, l'organisation des conférences, des expositions...

— L'important mouvement féministe américain des années 1970 vous a-t-il influencée?

A vrai dire, j'étais au départ un peu effrayée par ce bouillonnement libérateur, par les idées qu'on pouvait lire dans les magazines féministes. C'est mon mari, en fait, qui me poussait à lire et qui m'a encouragée à agir à mon tour.

— A votre retour en Jordanie, en 1976, les choses avaient-elles changé?

Oui, beaucoup. Plusieurs raisons à cela: la seconde moitié



"Les femmes ont peur de la vie active: la liberté, c'est difficile"

des années 1970 était politiquement calme, ce qui favorisait l'action sociale. De plus, le "boom pétrolier" a engendré un important essor économique, qui donnait aux femmes l'occasion de prendre des responsabilités. Plusieurs sociétés féminines s'étaient créées. A partir de 1980, les plus dynamiques ont sans doute été le Business and Professional Women club et l'association des universitaires arabes. Elles ont sorti la femme de son carcan, de son image d'intériorité, qui la cantonnait jusque-là à des activités charitables ou éducatives. De plus en plus, leur action se teintait de politique. J'ai commencé pour ma part à œuvrer au développement féminin, notamment par des conférences. Je me suis souvent heurtée à des réactions cyniques des hommes, qui me disaient: "Vous voulez révolutionner nos femmes?", en pensant que ça ne marcherait pas.

— Votre mari participait-il à votre lutte?

Certainement, et il était soutenu en cela par le Roi Hussein. C'est en partie grâce à ce dernier que trois femmes ont pu siéger au premier Conseil national consultatif, mis en place en 1978 pour remplacer le Parlement. Et quand mon époux est devenu premier ministre en 1979, il a donné le portefeuille du développement social à l'amie El Muttal, première femme ministre en Jordanie.

— Quelle était la philosophie de votre mari?

Ce n'était pas un politique. Il

avait un rêve pour le monde arabe: développer la responsabilité individuelle et une certaine éthique en politique. Pour lui, il fallait secouer l'inertie des sociétés arabes pour faire face au dynamisme israélien. Et donc décentraliser, démocratiser. Il était d'ailleurs rallié par l'opposition qui, sans contester le fond de ses idées, le traitait néanmoins de rêveur, d'idéaliste. Ce rêve, il me l'a légué. Après sa mort, en 1980, j'ai commencé à prendre des postes officielles: Conseil national consultatif, Conseil des doyens de l'université de Jordanie. Et en 1984, on m'a donné le ministère de l'information.

— Ministre, qu'avez-vous entrepris?

Malheureusement, je n'ai pas pu faire grand-chose. Je voulais par exemple bayer l'image de la femme somnolente par les productions égyptiennes et des pays du Golfe. Mais en l'absence d'une production jordanienne significative, ce sont ces genres-là qu'il aurait fallu changer. Beaucoup de directrices de programmes à la JTV étaient des femmes, mais elles-mêmes n'étaient pas le cholestérol. J'ai aussi essayé de rendre la télévision jordanienne moins réceptive aux séries américaines. J'ai même lancé une diffusion "Délasse", par exemple: pas de morale, glorification du cynisme. "Falcon Crispien", est encore pire. Pourquoi puiser ce qu'il y a de pire dans des cultures étrangères? De ce point de vue, je pense que les productions européennes sont plus saines que les américaines.

— Que pensez-vous de l'information en Jordanie, à l'heure actuelle?

Les journalistes se consacrent sans doute plus qu'ils ne le devraient. Le résultat est, en fait, que le public manque de confiance dans les médias. L'information est un problème de crédibilité.

— Aujourd'hui, êtes-vous satisfait de la condition féminine?

L'évolution est très lente dans les mentalités. Je pense que les femmes elles-mêmes ne se battent pas assez pour faire valoir leurs droits. Comme si elles n'avaient pas vraiment envie. Le potentiel de responsabilités que leur offre la Jordanie d'aujourd'hui, elles n'en profitent qu'à très peu. Pour que notre société change, il faut que les femmes aient plus d'ambition. Car ici comme ailleurs, le femme doit prouver beaucoup plus que l'homme pour accéder à un poste de responsabilité. J'en vois beaucoup qui, au bureau, passent leur temps à signer leur courrier ou à discuter stérilement. Elles ne se préoccupent pas de leur vie sociale, de leur vie affective, de leur vie sexuelle, de leur vie intellectuelle. Elles ne se préoccupent pas de leur vie politique. On peut comparer cela à l'esclave qui a peur de quitter son maître, parce qu'il ne sait pas seul prendre des décisions: la liberté, c'est loin d'être facile!

— A votre avis, les femmes sont-elles plus facilement actives dans les milieux les plus aisés?

Certainement pas. Elles essaient d'autant moins de travailler que leurs familles leur valent plus de confort matériel. En quelque sorte, beaucoup préfèrent se consacrer dans une abondance de biens de consommation sans prendre part à la production. D'autre part, il est vrai que le statut de la femme arabe, de la femme qui a "culture", de la femme qui travaille s'impose beaucoup plus les milieux aisés, où de fait, la femme est souvent obligée de travailler, car le salaire du mari ne suffit pas à nourrir la famille.

— Et les hommes?

Ils doivent changer eux aussi. Ils ne veulent pas pour l'instant partager les tâches du foyer. Mais un tel partage est nécessaire, si l'on ne veut pas voir la femme active se déborder de sa cage à cage. Elle a subi une déshumanisation grave car de la femme active, cela donne des jeunes déboussolés, cela donne des jeunes oisifs, cela donne des jeunes qui ne font que fumer, qui ne font que boire, qui ne font que se divertir. Les femmes ne peuvent pas rendre de nouvelles responsabilités à l'homme s'il ne fait pas lui-même. Les hommes ne participent pas au développement de la société, celle-ci sera bencale. Mais avant tout, les gens doivent apprendre la tolérance. Ce n'est qu'à ce prix que l'on peut bâtir un monde moderne et démocratique.

Propos recueillis par FRANÇOIS DUCROUX

7 APRIL 1988

ECOUTEZ VOIR

EXPOSITIONS

Abdel-Salam Kana'an

Peintures, sur le thème du travail de la femme dans le village jordanien. L'artiste puise son inspiration dans ses voyages dans la vallée du Jourdain et dans la région de Pétra. Kana'an a fait les Baux-Arts à l'université de Yarmouk. Ses tableaux ont déjà circulé dans plusieurs expositions en Jordanie.

du CCF, jusqu'au 13 avril

"La région Midi-Pyrénées"



Le portrait d'une région au passé prestigieux (châteaux, calvaires, art cistercien...) et tournée vers l'avenir (aéronautique, biotechnologie...)

Département de français de l'université de Yarmouk, du 8 au 14 avril

CINEMA

Hannah et ses sœurs

De Woody Allen, avec Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Diane West et Barbara Hershey (1986). A travers les aventures sentimentales de trois sœurs très différentes, la vie d'une excentrique famille américaine. Une peinture sensible et drôle des relations familiales et humaines dans les années 80. (en anglais)

Cinéma américain, jeudi 7 et lundi 11 à 19h00

TELEVISION

Fantômes contre Scotland Yard, avec Jean-Marie El Louadi de Funé. Les pendus se défont, les morts resuscitent, les vifs et les faux fantômes disparaissent. Qui est qui? (TV, vendredi 8 à 17h30)

CONCERT

Erika Friess, piano

Professeur au Mozarteum de Salzbourg, elle interprétera Mozart, Beethoven et Schubert.

RCC, mardi 12 à 20h00. Billets: 3 JD au RCC et au Goethe Institut.

Tous les programmes complets de TV page 16, légende page 26.

AU MENU

Riz à la libanaise

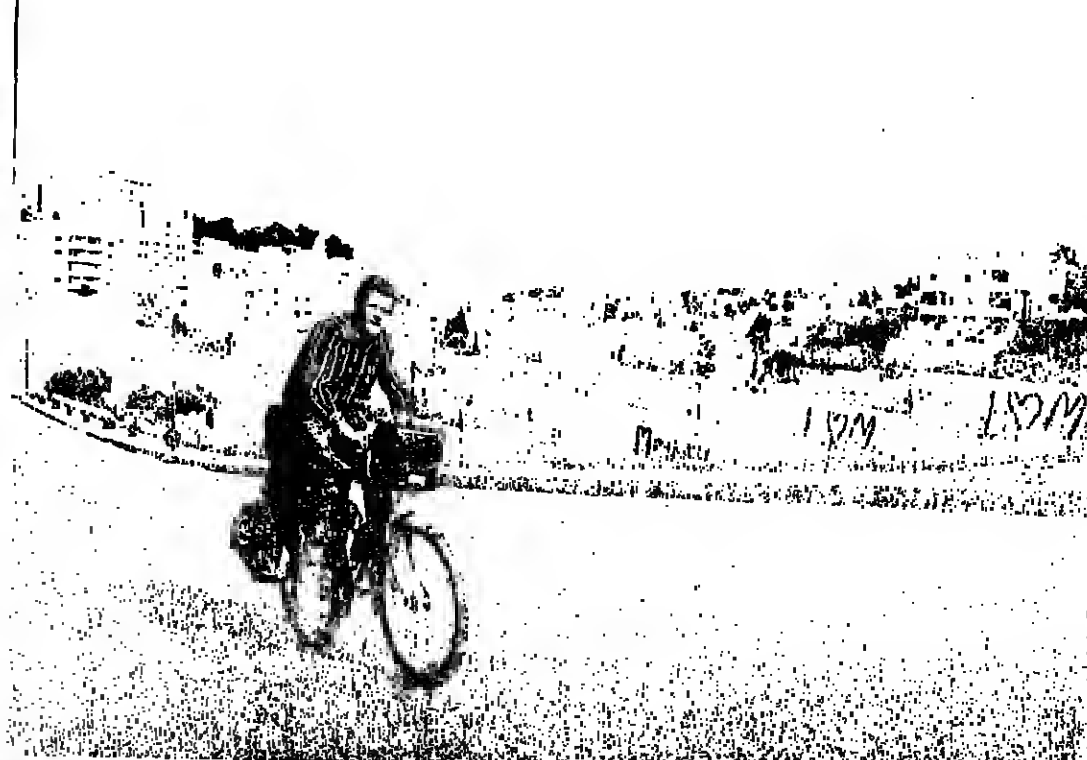
Préparation et cuisson: 40 min. 200g.

Sur le riz (long) dur, verser de l'eau bouillante. Mélanger, rincer. Faire bouillir dans une passoire. Faire cuire dans une casserole à feu vif 2 mn. Réduire le feu et laisser cuire 25 mn, avec un couvercle. Laisser reposer 10 mn sans remuer le couvercle. Verser le riz dans un plat chaud et le servir.

Béatification
Quatre prêtres ont été béatifiés dans la ville de Jérusalem. Ils ont été canonisés par le pape Jean-Paul II le 13 octobre 1984. Les "saints" sont: le père Jean-Baptiste, le père Jean-Marie, le père Jean-Pierre et le père Jean-Louis.

EMERIC FISSET, DE FRANCE EN INDE A BICYCLETTE

Mirages d'Orient sur deux roues



Emeric Fisset à Amman: "C'est cette extraordinaire aptitude à partager le repas et à offrir le gîte qui me pousse au cœur de la mentalité arabe."

Sous la basilique de Saint-Siméon, au nord d'Alep, pluies et vent me retiennent trois jours. Le boulanger du village m'invite. Je découvre un plateau unique, que réchauffe la poêle à bouillotte de mazout. Sept enfants m'y regardent, lentement rassurés.

Natives et cousins sont le seul mobilier. Il me faut apprendre à m'asseoir en tailleur, à me relever sans cesse lorsqu'arrive le dîner. Les amis, à mémoriser les quelques questions à mots qui reviennent toujours. Apprendre à me satisfaire de la faible clarté d'une ampoule, de l'assaut de la climatisation et des heures vides qui s'écoulent au cercle de la famille. Faire des petits cornets de pain pour recueillir le yoghourt ou "hommos", ou les trapper dans l'huile pour que le "za'atar" y colle, et conclure la dernière et bruyante gorgée de thé d'un "deimh".

Constamment invité

Pendant cinq semaines, je suis, objet de la curiosité des villageois syriens, constamment invité. Villes mortes du nord, où seuls quelques bergers paissent. Hama aux terres volées, comme en deuil. Village maronite à proximité du

Crac des Cheveliers, face au Liban. Nobles bédouins du plateau désertique au sud-ouest de Palmyre. Catholiques de rite grec de Maelafa. Et Ormuz aux îles moussues du Djebel.

En cette fin d'après-midi de mars, je me hâte vers la frontière. Longtemps, un homme court derrière moi, que le vent ramène à l'arrière. Pour me convier chez lui. Quelle peine à faire comprendre à cet instituteur que mon visa expire à minuit! C'est cette extraordinaire aptitude à partager son repas et à offrir le gîte — fût-ce un simple matelas — qui m'apparaît au cœur de la mentalité arabe. Qu'en sera-t-il en Jordanie? A Amman, je découvre une mégapole aux façades blanches et récentes. Mercades innombrables, larges artères et audacieux bâtiments administratifs. Supermarchés largement approvisionnés. La surprise est de taille. C'est l'occasion pour moi de situer davantage encore des événements qui depuis vingt ans, occupent l'actualité. Si je vis depuis la Syrie, le Liban et l'Irak, ce que je devine le plateau de Golan, la Cisjordanie est à portée de présent, et les kettles noirs nombreux en ville. Le problème est incontournable.

Remerciements au CCF, à Arthur Andersen & Co, et par avance aux ambassades saoudienne et irakienne

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